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apart

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Swedish PM opposes boycott of the Games



XinhuaPhoto

Visiting Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt gave a speech Monday at Beijing University to voice his opposition to a boycott of the Olympic Games and his faith in the success of the Beijing Games. "The Olympics is about sports and international exchange," Reinfeldt

said to an audience of nearly 100 students from the university. He attended this year's annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), a platform for high-level interaction between leaders from Asia and the world, held in Hainan Province.

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Measures for air quality to be taken during Olympics

By He Jianwei

Construction and highly-pollutant factories must stop production from July 20 to September 20, an official from the environmental department said Monday.

Besides traffic control, the measures regulating construction and polluting factories are temporary, drawn from other Olympic host cities' experiences, Du Shaozhong, deputy director of

Beijing's Environmental Protection Bureau, said.

Construction projects and concrete pouring will stop, and construction sites will make some changes to prevent accidents during the Olympics, Du said.

The high-polluting factories will stop or limit production. Factories which cannot meet emission demands will be forced to halt.

Cement and lime manufacturers will cease production during the Olympic Games. "The Capital Iron and Steel Company has reduced production by 4 million tons production this year and will limit its production as much as possible and decrease its emissions during the Games," he said.

Beijing Yanshan Petrochemical and another 18 companies

will reduce 30 percent of pollutant emissions.

"Companies which stop production temporarily during the Games will not be charged emission fees. Others who must reduce their production will have reduced emission fees," he said.

According to temporary measures, gas stations, petrol tankers and petrol reservoirs must go out of service if they do not improve.

As many as 60 percent of the 1,000 gas stations surveyed have made the necessary changes; 50 percent of petrol tankers and 30 percent of petrol reservoirs meet the requirements, he said.

Spray-painting on public surfaces and architecture will be banned during the Games.

Specific measures for traffic regulations will be released in the following weeks, Du said.

Ministry passes new environmental standards

By Jackie Zhang

The first construction plan for future environmental protection in China was released by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) Tuesday. According to the 11th five-year plan on national environmental supervision system construction, the country must invest almost 15 billion yuan to complete 50 national

environmental projects.

On Monday, MEP released four separate national standards for monitoring environmental protection.

The construction projects listed in the 11th five-year plan include establishing an environmental quality supervision network, monitoring and supervising nuclear waste disposal and radi-

ation emissions, natural reserve management and protection and solid waste management.

The four national standards cover coal bed gas, live refuse, industrial waste, pesticides and car exhaust. For the first time, MEP established measures to compel companies to monitor discharge of greenhouse gases.

Ministry staff said the dis-

charge standard on coal bed gas released this time said that high density could not be discharged. It is the first mandatory national policy to control discharge of greenhouse gas. The standard will be revised when techniques and high density gas discharge safety improve. To forbid the discharge of high density gas is a temporary measure.

The new policy on live refuse adds requirements on choosing landfill locations and waste processing equipment. All landfills must have a complete sewage treatment facility. New pesticide policies will stop industry from discharging pollutants into the water. Acceptable exhaust discharge from large automobiles has also been revised.

Olympic volunteer training ends

By Zhang Dongya

Beijing and foreign volunteers for the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic games were issued certificates Wednesday morning for the completion of a five-days training program.

As many as 260 volunteers reported for training, including 60 volunteers for the Paralympic Games. All the volunteers were selected from recruitment agencies in 30 provinces, Hong Kong, Macao and foreign countries.

The training period was divided into two sections. The first two days of comprehensive knowledge training included several topics like a general introduction to the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games, Olympic Games and volunteers and stadiums of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Another two days of special operation training was conducted for stadiums, volunteer service and audience service rules.

Training included case studies, simulations and role-playing. The volunteers were also brought to the stadiums to practice what they learned in class.

The training classes aimed to strengthen the instruction of volunteers out of Beijing and foreign volunteers and enhance the quality of their service.

All the materials in the training classes have been uploaded to the Web site of the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games for other volunteers to study.

Some of the volunteers will participate in the next six games of the Good Luck Beijing event series.

Nearly 2,000 Good Luck Beijing volunteers entered the Bird's Nest (Beijing National Stadium) for training last Saturday. It was the first troop of volunteers to enter the venue.

High-tech police equipment on show



The 2008 China International Police Equipment Expo opened Wednesday at the Beijing Exhibition center. Organized by the Ministry of Public Security, Olympic security is the main theme of the expo this time. Several pieces of international high-tech police equipment are shown. The expo closes tomorrow.

Photo by Dragon Wang

Children on camera to protect safety

By Jackie Zhang

The first mandatory local standard on schools and kindergartens' security protection was released Monday. Starting April 28, the regulations will formally take effect. According to the standard, all schools and kindergartens must install video monitoring systems at main entrances.

Aisles in student dormitories must also be monitored. Expenses for installation are to be shared by the municipal government, district government and schools.

Schools and kindergartens must establish a monitoring

alarm center. Professional staff must be on duty in the office 24 hours a day. Video cameras, alarms and security management must be installed in the center, and the systems must work no less than eight hours a day.

Other entrances must have alarms installed that will sound if there is a break-in. School dormitories and main roads on campus must be recorded and have equipment installed to enable students to contact the police for help.

The standard requires schools to keep detailed records of alarm activities. Records of tripped

alarms must be kept no less than 30 days, and videos must be kept for at least 7 days.

All schools and kindergartens must stay connected to a supervision system. Alarm messages must be immediately delivered to local police stations and superior managers.

So far, schools like the High School affiliated with Renmin University and No 101 Middle School, and kindergartens like Waijiaobu Kindergarten, which is supervised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have installed video monitoring systems and established a monitoring office.

Brief news

English service available in Xicheng court

Xicheng District People's Court issued a new service for English speakers last week. Foreigners with a valid passport and visa, stateless persons or anyone who cannot speak Chinese can have English service in court. The judge will help with consultation and explain questions related to law and lawsuit procedures.

Health care reform focuses on public service

China's health care reform plan will focus on public health, Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday.

According to the plan, the country will ensure the non-profit nature of its public medical service and speed up building a health insurance network in both urban and rural areas. It will also improve the public health service and set up a state catalog, production and handle distribution of basic medicine, Wen said at a meeting held by the State Council.

HK, mainland start officer exchange

Three Immigration officers from Hong Kong left for the Chinese mainland on Sunday for a two-week attachment program held in Guangdong Province.

The attachment program is co-organized by the Hong Kong Immigration Department and the Bureau of Entry and Exit Authority (BEEA) under the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing.

The aim of the program is to provide participants on both sides with the opportunity to learn from each other in terms of efficiency and personal capability, as well as to bring their newly acquired experience into practice in their own workplace.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Female mayor responsible for flattening boy

By Gan Tian

The police required a Hubei Province mayor to take full responsibility for killing a boy in a car accident on Tuesday.

Fan Xiaolan, mayor of Dangyang City in Hubei Province, drove a government-owned Toyota Prado when she hit an 11-year-old student who was headed for school on the highway connecting Yichang and Dangyang cities at around 7:20 am, March 17.

Fan immediately called the police. The police arrived within five minutes, Wang Genhua, spokesman for the Communist Party of China discipline inspection committee of the city, said.

Local media reported that Fan had sincerely apologized to the victim's family, had paid 200,000 yuan (US \$28,571) to them, requesting no further investigation. The money came from Fan's personal savings.

The next month, the case was exposed on the Internet and the 39-year-old female mayor was suspended from her post last Saturday.

In big cities, drivers must slow to 30 kilometers per hour on roads near schools, but Fan was driving at 60 kilometers per hour when the accident happened, Wang Shenghua, head of the city's Traffic Management Team, told *Beijing News*

on Tuesday.

Government officials are not allowed to operate government vehicles without permission.

Beijing News cited Chinese traffic regulations that "anyone responsible for a car accident that kills at least one person and seriously injures more than three people will be detained or sentenced to up to three years in prison." The case remains under investigation.

Charitable star stuck with lawsuit

By Zhang Dongya

Zhang Hua, who found overnight fame in a documentary named *Sisters*, was sued by a 12-year-old girl called Xiaoshuang (pseudonym), for whom she had collected money. The case was heard in court last week.

Xiaoshuang, whose family relied on a subsistence allowance, had hemangioma. Her parents met Zhang Hua through a mutual acquaintance and asked her to help. Zhang collected 100,000 yuan from a company using her social contacts, and signed an agreement to use those funds as a donation.

After spending 10,000 yuan on treatment, Xiaoshuang's parents asked Zhang for the remaining 90,000 yuan. Zhang rejected their demands, for fear that they might use the money for other purposes. Xiaoshuang's parents sued her this January.

Zhang said the only reason she was in court was because she did not sign an agreement with Xiao's parents on the supervision over the use of the money. However, since the people she had helped were always from poor rural areas, they would feel they were distrusted if she pressed for such an agreement, Zhang said.

Like Xiaoshuang, Zhang lived in a remote village in Quzhou, Zhejiang Province, 22 years ago. She left home when she was 16 and became employed in a Kunming, Yunnan Province, barbershop. After a failed marriage and the birth of a baby girl, she left for Shenzhen and opened a barbershop with her elder sister.

Their hard life was recorded in a documentary titled *Sisters* by Li Jinghong in 2000, and was popular all over the country. Zhang produced and edited the documentary, and won the annual award for Documentary Director.

After an overnight success, Zhang received numerous calls for help and began to take part in charity projects.

"I found some precious things, like trust between people, were lost through this lawsuit. I will be much more careful in the future," Zhang said.

Cleft-lip kids have reason to smile



Alliance for Smiles, a non-profit organization from the US, helped 200 children born with a cleft lip or palate in Yichang, Hubei Province this week.

Photo by Liu Yunfeng

Police say Koreans did not kill Guangzhou woman

By Li Fenghua

Tan Jing, formerly assumed a prostitute, fell from a 30-story building April 5 in Guangzhou. Now police say she fell on her own, according to the investigation.

According to the autopsy report, the alcohol content of Tan's blood was twice what would be found in a normally drunk person. There were no signs of sexual violation, drugs or sleeping pill abuse.

But details remain missing. If Tan had such a high alcohol density, then how could she walk to the window? If she was so drunk, how could she crawl out? Why was she half-naked?

Three foreigners from the Republic of Korea were suspected of killing Tan. The men are now living in a friend's home in Guangzhou. They said they are afraid to go out in public lest they are attacked.

Tan Jing was born in Luoyang, Henan Province. She had appeared as a model in TV programs, films and advertisements. Her work put her in contact with many Koreans.

She earned about 8,000 yuan per month. Tan was not satisfied with her job and was under a lot of pressure. She recently fell into heavy drinking, a Guangzhou newspaper reported. The details of the case remain under investigation.

Equestrian event held in Beijing

By Li Fenghua

The first national equestrian endurance event was held last Saturday in Yanqing County, Beijing.

The event covered a 150-kilometer path around Guanting Lake, with 60 kilometers for the endurance competition. It was the first equestrian endurance event held in China that met International Equestrian Federation (FEI) standards.

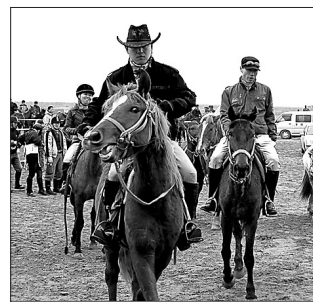
The event drew 41 competitors from equestrian clubs all over China, and more than 100 riders in the 150-kilometer riding activity.

Wu Zala, CEO of the horse.org.cn, became fascinated with horseback riding several years ago. Wu thinks that horse riding is healthy and good for busy urban people.

Beijing has the most equestrian clubs in China: 50 percent of the country's 150 clubs.

"As an important outdoor activity all over the world, horse riding will be more and more popular in China. It is not an activity for the nobles - everybody can enjoy riding. It only cost 150 yuan to ride for a whole day."

"We hope more foreigners in



Horse endurance event at Guanting Lake Photo by Li Fenghua

Beijing can participate in the next event, which will be held this November or next April," Wu said.

Old man accused of trafficking child

By Li Fenghua

Zhang Hongzhi, an old man from Zhuozhou, Hebei Province, was honored as a "caring grandpa" by locals for adopting orphans and opening the SOS children's village: today he stands accused of child trafficking.

In January, Xiaochun, a three-year-old adopted child, suddenly went missing from SOS. Police said Zhang Hongzhi, president of the village, sent Xiaochun to a peasant family for 7,000 yuan.

Zhang set up the SOS village in Zhuozhou in 2001 after he retired, then moved to Beijing in 2006 with the help of two caretakers: Tong Yuling and her friend Li Fei.

There used to be five orphans in the village. In January, when Tong returned from travel, she heard from a child that Zhang sold one of the orphans.

Zhang explained that a suitable foster family was found for Xiaochun; Tong called the police.

In late February, Changping police reported locating Xiaochun with a peasant named Fu Changshun from Xingtai, Hebei Province. Fu and his wife paid 7,000 yuan to Zhang to adopt the child.

Zhang said he has performed volunteer work for at least 30 years. However, he has been accused of mistreating the children, since he has a reputation for having a bad temper and frequently scolds and beats them.

Student found 'addicted' to soda

By Zhang Dongya

Akai, 16, a middle school student in Guangdong Province, was diagnosed as being "seriously addicted" to soda. He was forced to drop out of school for treatment.

The student was addicted to soda for at least three years, consuming seven to eight bottles per day. Soda, when consumed at that volume, can cause headaches, heart palpitation and insomnia. He could not concentrate in class and performed poorly.

"There was a week when his behavior was quite strange and he began to speak gibberish to himself," Akai's mother said. "We never thought to connect it to his soda consumption. There is no warning label on the bottles!"

Doctors in Guangzhou Wujing Hospital diagnosed the boy as being addicted to the caffeine content in soda. "Each 355-milliliter can of soda packs more than 35 milligrams of caffeine. Five or six cans per day, especially for active youngsters who drink it on an empty stomach, will lead to high caffeine volume in the blood. When this goes on for a long time, the child can exhibit signs of addiction," He Rihui, the doctor in charge of Akai's case, said.

The boy is still receiving psychological and medical treatment.

It is rare for a soda addiction to cause mental problems, He said. The doctor said parents should remember that excessive consumption of soda, coffee or other caffeinated beverages can affect a child's growth.

Country faces alien invasion amid economic boom

By Huang Daohen

It's not just the nation's economy that is booming, but alien species are thriving, too. As many as 400 species are reported to have invaded the country and inflicted more than US \$14.5 billion worth of damage to the nation's economy annually. Reporting in *BioScience* this month, researchers from China and the US warned of a mounting invasion of non-native organisms into China.



Researchers are thinking of methods to deal with the American white moths. CFP photo

Dates of introduction and outbreak for some invasive plant species in China.

Scientific name	Common name	Introduction (frist detection)	Outbreak
Ageratina adenophora (Spreng.) R. M. King et H. Rob.	Crofton weed	1935	1960s
Alternanthera philoxeroides (Mart.) Griseb	Alligator weed	1935	1980s
Ambrosia artemisiifolia L.	Giant ragweed	1930s	1980s
Plantago virginica L.	Virginia plantain	1951	1990s
Solidago canadensis L.	Canada goldenrod	1935	1980s

Dates of introduction and outbreak for some invasive animal species in China.

Scientific name	Common name	Introduction (frist detection)	Outbreak
Callosobruchus maculatus (Fabricius)	Cowpea weevil	1960	1960
Brusaphelenchus xylophilus (Steiner et Buhner) Nickle	Pine wilt nematode	1982	1982
Ampullaria gigas Spix	Amazonian snail	1981	1988
Hyphantria cunea (Drury)	Fall webworm	1979	1980
Myocastor coypus (Kerr)	Coypu	1953	1990

Sources from BioScience, April, 2008

Non-native plants and animals are arriving in growing numbers due to increased trade, and they are arriving in those once-isolated areas via new transportation routes, ecologist Ding Jian-qing from the Chinese Science Academy, who reported the findings with his US colleagues, said.

Many more species are likely to have gone undetected. Ding and his colleagues reported that since China adopted the reform and opening-up policy in 1978, the value of its imports and exports exploded from US \$20.6 billion to US \$1.4 trillion in 2005. The number of international ports of entry has doubled since 1987. By 2005, more than 25,000 miles of express highway threaded through China compared with 620 miles in 1988.

This growth has brought with it exotic species, some imported deliberately as garden plants or pets, and others introduced accidentally, Ding said.

The group found that the number of documented invasive plant species in China more than tripled between 1995 and 2003, while animal invaders increased 30 percent from 1990 to 2003.

"One study estimated that the invasions could cost China US \$14.5 billion annually," the ecologist said, adding that would be a conservative estimate.

Mice and moth invaders

Alien species invasion is no longer uncommon in Beijing. This January, as many as eight dead and live mice were found on a United Airlines' (UA) flight from Washington to Beijing after its arrival in the airport.

An emergency team was immediately dispatched to the aircraft and all the entries to the plane were shut down for further examination.

Though experts from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said that the mice were found to be safe, the rare incidence caused panic among customers.

The American white moth is another alien pest threatening plants and crops in areas around the city. The invasive moth has a strong reproductive ability. Each moth can lay 2,000 to 3,000 eggs. A family of larva can eat the leaves of a healthy tree in several days, experts said.

The local forest administration announced last month that Beijing and its three neighbors, Tianjin, Hebei and Liaoning, would jointly carry out a battle to wipe out the moth, in order to secure a green Olympics.

Plant invasions are serious, as well. According to Wan Fanghao, a researcher from the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, by the end of 2004, the number of alien species to invade China was over 400, among which were 92 kinds of plants.

Factors

Many factors contribute to the developing problems, including an increase in the number of ports of entry, the number of travelers, and the amount of imported goods, Ding said.

The group found that many invasive plants were brought to China as ornamen-



The plant *Solidago decurens* Lour grows fast in the city.

Photo by Xu Guokang



The larvae of the white moths affected Tianjin, a city near Beijing.

Photo by Jiang Baocheng

tal or fodder species. Canada's goldenrod, for instance, was brought in as an ornamental and was distributed via the domestic nursery and garden industries; it has now invaded more than 20 provinces.

China's attempts to prepare Beijing in advance of the 2008 Olympic Games may exacerbate the problem, the group said. From 2002 to 2004, more than 31 million non-native seedlings and 132,000 pounds of seeds were planted in the city.

"It will be a hidden cost of the Olympics," Ding said. These plantings may not themselves become invasive, he said, but they may bring hitchhikers, and invasions may take time to develop.

The good news is that authorities in China are keen to improve quarantine and inspection procedures for the Olympics and beyond, he added.

Strict quarantine

There are ways of limiting the damage, but Ding and his colleagues say action needs to be taken quickly. They call for strict quarantine measures in China to detect invaders early and reduce their economic impact.

Elsewhere, Ding noted that more needs to be done to assess the invasive potential of native Chinese species. Rapid studies can be carried out to catalogue characteristics such as how plants pollinate, disperse, and in which climates they thrive.

"Strict laws and regulations for the restriction and control of invasive species are necessary, as well as more urgency in enhancing awareness of the risks of biological invasion," he added.

They also suggested that more attention be paid to the ecosystem disturbance around major construction projects such as the Three Gorges Dam and the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

Major construction may stimulate biological invasions by damaging plants such as broadleaf fleabane and water hyacinth, both of which were once cultivated for animal fodder with official encouragement, Ding said.

Country demands apology from CNN



CNN pundit Jack Cafferty's words were met by overseas Chinese protesters.

CFP Photo

(AP) – China demanded an apology from CNN Tuesday after network commentator Jack Cafferty called the country's leaders a "bunch of goons and thugs" and said its products were "junk."

It was the latest flare-up after Beijing accused Western media of bias in its reporting following violent protests in the Tibetan capital last month. Atlanta-based CNN has been singled out by some Chinese who say overseas news outlets are smearing Beijing.

Cafferty made the remarks during an appearance on CNN's

daily political news segment, "The Situation Room," that aired April 9, according to a transcript posted on CNN's Web site.

He was speaking about the US trade deficit with China when he said, according to the transcript, "We continue to import their junk with the lead paint on them and the poisoned pet food and export, you know, jobs to places where you can pay workers a dollar a month to turn out the stuff that we're buying from Wal-Mart."

"So I think our relationship

with China has certainly changed," he continued. "I think they're basically the same bunch of goons and thugs they've been for the last 50 years."

Network spokeswoman Edie Emery at CNN headquarters in Atlanta pointed out that Cafferty made a clarification Monday on "The Situation Room."

Some Chinese at home and abroad have denounced Western media for what they claim are slanted reports about the unrest in Tibet that unjustly criticized Beijing in its crackdown.

Official response

"CNN's ulterior motive to target the Chinese government and continue to mislead public opinion as well as deceive the Chinese people will never succeed", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao, also the Director-General of the Ministry's Information Department, said in a written statement issued late on Wednesday.

"Journalistic professionals should abide by their ethics, and they don't have the privilege to slander or rail at anybody or any government," Liu said.

"We once again solemnly urge CNN and Cafferty to take back the vile remarks and make a sincere apology to all Chinese people," Liu stressed.

American Chinese demand apology from CNN

American Chinese have launched an online campaign, to demand an apology from CNN.

"We are truly stunned and shocked by a recent racist and hateful remark against the Chinese people by your news commentator Jack Cafferty," read a petition which has received 7,614 signatures since it was posted online on Friday.

Cafferty's hateful words were recorded and uploaded to YouTube. As of press time, the video has had as many as 10,000 watchers. Viewers from the world over have left comments condemning the remarks.

"As a leading organization of legal immigrants mainly comprised of people from China, we strongly condemn Jack Cafferty's racist remarks and urge CNN to take immediate action against him," the petition said.

Netizens attack CNN with song

A Chinese netizen who was frustrated by CNN has created a new source of sarcasm – a song circulating online called "Don't be too CNN."

Written and performed by somebody calling himself Mu Rongxuan and backed by a music video showing, among other things, supposedly biased media dispatches, the song's lyrics attack what it says are distorted reports.

"CNN solemnly swears that everything on it is the truth, but I've gradually discovered this is actually a deception," the female singer croons, at times emotion appearing to affect her pitch.

(Agencies)

Economy grows 10.6% in Q1

(Bloomberg) – China's economic growth slowed down slightly to 10.6 percent in the first quarter, compared with 11.7 percent in the same period of last year, the government said Wednesday.

China maintained steady and fast growth since the beginning of the year, despite the unprecedented freak winter weather and the widespread subprime mortgage crisis, the National Bureau of Statistics spokesman Li Xiaochao said at a press conference Wednesday in Beijing.

The world's fourth-largest economy expanded at a blistering nearly 12 percent pace for all of 2007, the fifth consecutive year its annual economic growth exceeded 10 percent.

Industrial production rose 16.4 percent year-on-year in the first three months. The increase was 1.9 percentage points lower than that in the same period of 2007.

China's consumer price index (CPI), a measure of inflation, was up 8.3 percent in March of this year, as against the 8.7 percent level for the previous month.

Li said the country's CPI for the first quarter of this year was 8 percent.

Bosses jailed for mine flood that killed 172

(Reuters) – Two coal mine managers have been jailed for seven years for negligence after a colliery flood killed 172 workers, the country's worst such accident in decades, local media said on Wednesday.

The tragedy happened in August 2007 when a river dike burst in torrential rain, sending water rushing into two mine shafts. The miners were declared dead after weeks of trying to pump out the water ended in vain.

Zheng Zhenxiu, chairman of the privately operated Huayuan Mining in Shandong Province, and deputy general manager Zhang Canjun were both found guilty of negligence, the Guangzhou Daily said.

"The managers failed to halt production and order an evacuation in time, delaying the chance for the miners to escape," the report said.

Gov boosts food aid for students

(AP) – The government will increase student subsidies to help ease the burden of soaring food prices, the Education Ministry announced.

Twenty million students in higher-education institutions across the country will receive a 20 yuan increase in monthly stipends, the ministry said on its Web site Monday.

The increases aim to "lighten the pressure on university students due to the rise in prices," the notice said.

About one in five Chinese students receives an annual stipend of 2,000 yuan; a small number of exceptional students from poor families get as much as 8,000 yuan per year, the ministry said.

Increased subsidies will cost the government an additional 320 million yuan, it said.

Irked Web users turn chatrooms red

(Reuters) – Web users, stung by international criticism of China ahead of the Beijing Olympics, have splashed red across the Internet by adding hearts and "CHINA" to their names when chatting online in a show of support.

Several contact lists for online chat programs, such as Microsoft's MSN, steadily filled up with red hearts during the day, though opinions differed as to what, exactly, the symbol signified.

"This is aimed at all those

forces which want to bring chaos to China," one user who had posted a photo of herself dressed in People's Liberation Army fatigues said.

Others said the heart was simply a symbol of pride and affection for their country.

"Heart + CHINA only means 'I love China,' no other meaning to me. If I wanted to express 'I am against Tibet independence,' I would say I am against Tibet independence," another user said.



The recent trend "Heart+CHINA" draws wild concern.

IC Photo

Gov criticizes US bailout policy

By Huang Daohen

Developed countries must implement more responsible monetary and exchange rate policies and carry out more effective measures to eliminate financial crises, Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Li Yong said while attending the IMF and the World Bank's spring meeting in Washington.

Li warned that, from a long-term perspective, the interest cuts by the US and some other

economies aiming to curb the credit crisis may lead to global liquidity glut, Xinhua reported.

The US has cut interest rates and injected capital to relieve its credit crisis, the report said.

Li said developed countries must be responsible for the stability of the global financial market, and should adjust their macro policies at a proper time to avoid or eliminate crises.

Dollar depreciation is costing China, and not just money

lost, Wang Yuanlong, a researcher at the Bank of China, said. Wang estimated the loss from the foreign exchange reserve alone could be billions of dollars.

But US dollar depreciation has also intensified domestic inflation pressures by lifting commodity prices, and its rapid depreciation against other international currencies will slow down the yuan's appreciation against those currencies – some-

thing that could cause pressure for yuan appreciation.

Wang said China has reasons to ask developed countries, the US in particular, to implement more responsible monetary policies. "The current global economic slow down and financial market fluctuation are closely related to policies within the US. If the US allows dollar depreciation, then other countries will be seriously harmed," he said.

GE says labor rights violation claims bogus

By Huang Daohen

General Electric, accused by Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) of violating China's labor laws, issued a statement this week denying all PMO's claims.

GE's statement was supported by the local Xiamen Trade Union, according to the 21st Economic report.

The company said that after one week's thorough investigation by a team of 11 experts, it found no evidence of workers working extra hours without pay or being exposed to harmful substances in its Xiamen joint venture in China, contrary to PMO's report.

It quoted management as saying that the workers there are all happy to work with the company and are satisfied with its welfare.

CNPC denies IEA loss report

By Huang Daohen

China National Petroleum (CNPC) has denied an IEA (International Energy Agency) report that it would probably suffer a US \$14 billion loss this year due to high crude oil prices, China Business News reported.

"Such reports are groundless and untrue," an unnamed company official was quoted as saying.

Refining has undoubtedly lost money, but that is not the case for the whole company, he said. "CNPC's oil and gas exploitation, gas stations and chemical segments are very profitable."

But he recognized that profits in the first quarter declined compared with the year before, despite a tax rebate on gasoline and diesel imports to help offset losses.

CNPC and China Petroleum & Chemical, better known as Sinopec, will receive a refund on a 17 percent value-added tax on imports.

Siemens cooperates with Tsinghua in technology

By Huang Daohen

The German electronic guru Siemens signed a five-year framework agreement on Tuesday with the Tsinghua University to establish a technology exchange center.

The Center of Knowledge Interchange (CKI) will conduct research in rail transportation, waste water treatment, energy conservation, emission reduction, intelligent transportation systems and other fields.

Siemens China's president and CEO Richard Hausmann praised the cooperation. "The CKI program will provide us a systematic way to increase mutual cooperation and make us better equipped to face challenges," he said.

Papa John's celebrates its 100th booth in China

By Li Jing

Pizza delivery train Papa John's celebrated the opening of 100 stores in China on April 17, in Yan Sha Outlets Mall Store in Beijing.

"China is an important market and is expected to account for 22 percent of the company's total revenue outside of the US this year," David Flanery, chief financial officer and treasurer of Papa John's, said.

Papa John's, the world's third largest pizza company, entered China in 2003 and opened its first store in Shanghai.

Platform to promote outbound tourism



The three-day China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market (COTTM) held annually started Monday at the China World Trade Center. The event provides platform for countries to showcase their potentials targeted at China's large and vibrant

outbound tourism market.

The World Tourism Organisation predicts that by 2020 there will be 100 million outbound Chinese travellers per year.

CFP Photo

Wage earner king moves to Newhuadu

By Li Fenghua

Tang Jun, a poster-boy of the Chinese IT industry, was appointed the president and chief executive of South China-based private firm Newhuadu Industrial Group Co today.

He previously worked at Microsoft China and Shanda Entertainment.

Tang will receive a record-high package valued at one billion yuan (US\$140 million), including shares and warrants, the former Shanda president said during a press conference in Beijing today.

Tang, 46, replaced Chen Fashu as president and CEO of Fuzhou-based Newhuadu. Tang

will manage the company's daily operations, strategic development, platform operations and external investment, said Chen, Newhuadu's founder.

"Tang will be responsible for the overall operation of the daily administration, long-term strategy, investment and capital of the group," said Chen Fashu, chairman of the board of directors of New Huadu group, at a press conference held Tuesday.

Tang left Shanda because he "said I would stay in Shanda for 3 years and have a goal for my performance. Three years have passed and I have achieved my goal, so I left," Tang said.



Tang Jun

Photo Provided by Beijing Youth Daily

"New Huadu was looking for someone like me and I was searching a company like it. When Chen met me, everything fell into place. We knew we were a perfect match," he said.

The company paid a billion

yuan to recruit Tang. "I didn't ask about the salary. I knew it wouldn't be low. You don't care much about pay once you reach a certain position. We made our contract with trust in each other," Tang said.

Rebtel introduces cheap intl calls

By Huang Daohen

Rebtel launched Tuesday its low-cost and free international calling to and from Beijing.

Foreign nationals in Beijing can use their mobile phones to call any phone, anywhere in the world, for just minimal charges and make free international calls to friends, family and work colleagues in as many as 40 countries, Hjalmar Winbladh, co-founder and president of Rebtel, said.

The services are compatible with any mobile handset and don't require any software or other options. "No monthly fees, no connection fees, no hidden costs. All you pay for is a local call," Winbladh said.

According to the company, it is free now to set up a Rebtel account. After registering, users will receive 10 free minutes to try out the service and will, after that, only pay for the actual minutes they utilize.

Winbladh said Rebtel calls can be made just like a local call. The service allots users local phone numbers that can be used to connect to their long-distance friends and relatives.

As an example, Winbladh said a Beijing user of Rebtel is assigned a local Beijing phone number that will connect them to their friend in New York. And vice versa, the user in New York receives a local number which will connect to the friend in Beijing.

Compared to other operators charges, like China Mobile's Gotone, the rates are significantly lower. Gotone charges about 5.6 yuan per minute to call a mobile phone in China from a mobile phone in the US. By comparison, Rebtel direct calls to China will cost less than 0.2 yuan per minute from any of the countries it serves.

In January, Rebtel introduced service in Shanghai, making China the 40th Rebtel Country.

Foot-washing, a culture and industry?



This picture shot in a recent cultural exhibition in Shanxi Province showing the foot-washing service, an industry which may stir controversy among the public. CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Song Wenbao, Municipal Committee Secretary of Yidu, Hubei Province, said "foot-washing is culture" and encouraged citizens to go foot-washing to stimulate domestic demand and develop the tertiary industry.

A municipal working conference sponsored by officials from publication departments was held

last week in Yidu. Secretary Song Wenbao encouraged citizens to go out to consume in order to spur domestic demand. "Citizens going to bed at nine o'clock is far too early," Song said. "They can go and get exercises or foot-wash in some fitness clubs or foot-washing houses."

Song's speech brought laughter, but also disputes. Some officials

in the conference agreed with his opinion, and said the rise of recreational places like KTV houses and foot-washing houses in the city played an important role in stimulating the citizens' consumption and relieving employment pressure.

Some officials thought it was not proper to place foot-washing activities into the tertiary industry.

Yidu was ranked first in Hubei Province in a comprehensive evaluation county area economy last year.

It is believed that the achievement was due to the city's reform and local governors' leading ideas. Some officials regarded the "culture of foot-washing" as part of the embodiment of the local governors' leading ideas.

Comment

Foot notes

It is not necessary to go foot-washing, and the foot-washing houses always cause bias. It is not acceptable to me.

— 40-year-old local, teacher

Foot-washing is good for the health, but it is different to wash outside since the places are unregulated. If it is culture, I think it is a distorted one. Who can accept this kind of culture?

— Huang Yanming, Dahe.cn critic

It is not an easy task to stimulate domestic demand by consuming in some recreational places like foot-washing houses. The governor should not only consider the economic effects, but also the social atmosphere and culture.

— Li Jiming, people.com.cn blogger

Regulations: a foot in the door

I often go foot-washing when I am free. I feel comfortable after washing and it is good for the health. I think it is good to develop it as an industry, since regulating foot-washing houses will lower the price, and more people will accept it.

— Yanni, 20-year-old citizen

People nowadays have a lot of pressure on them and a foot massage does have a relaxing effect. The present foot-washing houses lack management and regulations. If the local governors can regulate foot massage businesses and foot-washing services, it will definitely stimulate the domestic demand.

— Hou Jiang, commentator for Beijing Evening News



Peking Opera goes back to school

Rewards for relinquishing seats



Two kidney transplants rejected by regulations

Minister calls for reform



Film shoot paralyzes city

Transformer substation breeds controversy

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Synchronized swimming sets sights high

By Zhang Dongya

The Good Luck Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Synchronized Swimming Qualification Tournament started Wednesday at the Water Cubic, and it will continue till this Sunday.

"Synchronized swimming is popular in Japan, and it is the one event in which Japan will probably win medals at the Beijing Olympic Games," one Japanese reporter said.

It catches the attention of many Japanese reporters. "It is a very important game, since it relates to Japan qualifying for the Olympics," the reporter said.

Reporters home and abroad who have signed up to cover this game number 1,100 with Japan having 135 reporters, 20 writers, 20 photographers and 95 TV reporters.

Synchronized swimming in the Olympic Games offers two medals: one for the team competition and the other for the duet competition. There will be

eight teams competing in the team competition and 24 teams with 24 pairs of athletes in the duet competition.

Qualification of the team competition comes from the winners from the five continents. As champions of the Doha Asian Games and hosts of the Beijing Olympic Games, China Team will take part on behalf of Asia. Team Japan, who won the silver medal for synchronized swimming at the Athens Olympic Games, has to compete for a qualification spot at the Games in this particular event.

Japanese athletes Harada and Suzuki performed a dynamic routine highlighted by strong boosts and impressive leg extensions, but will need to better their execution in the Duet Free routine on Friday, April 18 if they intend to challenge effectively for the gold medal.

Food specials like yogurt, sandwiches and cheeses are provided for the athletes of the synchronized swimming qualification tournament to help replenish their energy and supply good nutrition.



CFP Photos

Shooting the works

By Gan Tian

With the Good Luck Beijing ISSF World Cup 2008 rifle, pistol and shotgun events opening on April 10, the Beijing Shooting Range opened for the audience's viewing. As one of the Good Luck Beijing sport events, the World Cup is only a pre-Olympic shooting competition to test the Olympic shooting venues and the Games operation team.

Big shot event

The World Cup is the largest shooting event ever in China and is a "Good Luck" sport event with the most participants to date. There are 1,600 competitors including 1,273 shooters, technical officials and coaches from 92 countries and areas bound to Beijing for the event.

According to the organizers, national shooting teams, especially world shooting powerhouses, have sent their topnotch athletes to the competition and qualified shooters for the Beijing Olympic Games are all expected to compete here in Beijing.

Based on the Olympic shooting competition schedule, there are fifteen shooting events in the eight-day competition, including nine men's and six women's events, which are the 50-meter Rifle Three Positions Men and Women, 50-meter Rifle Prone Men, 10-meter Air Rifle Men, 50-meter Pistol Men, 25-meter Rapid Fire Pistol Men, 10-meter Air Pistol Men and Women, Trap Men 125 Targets, Double Trap Men 150 Targets, Skeet Men 125 Targets, 25-meter Pistol Women, 10-meter Air Pistol Women, Trap Women 75 Targets and Skeet Women 75 Targets.

The shooting range

Located in Shijingshan District, the Beijing Shooting Range has a construction area of over 45,000 square meters. The area is in the former Shooting and Archery Center of the General Administration of Sports on the newly-requisitioned land of the south side.

The construction of the range started in July, 2004 and was completed in March of last year. However, the Shooting Center of the State General Administration of Sport was handed the gold key to the Beijing Shooting Range Hall by the venue's management group three months later on July 28, 2007.

The hall consists of shooting

qualification competition halls and final competition hall, permanent bullet depot, a storehouse, armed police room, a heating and ventilation equipment room, and outdoor matching facilities.

The seating capacity of the whole venue reaches 8,600 spectators, with room for 6,100 in the qualification competition halls and 6,100 in the final competition hall. There are 2,170 permanent seats and 6,430 removable seats.

The Beijing Shooting Range Hall will host the qualifying rounds and finals of ten shooting events at the 2008 Summer Olympics. It will also likely be the venue of the first gold medal awarded at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The entire shooting sports events for the 2008 Summer Paralympics will also be held at this venue.

The bow venue

The venue was especially designed in the shape of a hunting bow, which reflects the origin of this shooting sport — hunting in the forest.

The venue's main entrance, just outside the West Fifth Ring Road, connects The Shooting Hall's qualification competition halls and the final competition hall, which makes the venue look like an archer's bow.

The Beijing Shooting Range Hall is based on the functional requirements of shooting and pursuing the conservation between architectural space and nature. It applies the proper ecological architectural technologies, such as the ecological breathing pane in the wall, the prefabricated concrete outside board and the green atrium. The natural elements, such as sunlight, green trees and wind, are also adopted to the buildings. At low architecture cost, the racing and watching conditions are maximally created on the logical, humanistic and comfortable aspects.

Post Games use

After the Olympics the venue will become the training base of the No 1 and No 2 national shooting teams and a youth training base, and be used for important international and domestic shooting competitions. Part of the range will be open to the public and become the base for national defense education, shooting activities for the public as well as a shooting museum publicizing the Olympic spirit.

Comment



Li Huizi, 28, Chinese

The Shooting Hall is in Shijingshan District. I am a Beijing local but I haven't been there very often. This event gave me a chance to see other parts of my hometown. I never imagined an area so quiet and green.



Eddie Law, 27, Hong Kong

I flew here last Sunday for a visit in town when my local friends told me about the Good Luck Beijing shooting event. I decided to attend and was lucky to see so many athletes from all over the world gathering here and competing for honors.



Huang Huili, 25, Chinese

I only watched some qualification events. The Beijing Shooting Hall is in such a good place, surrounded by mountains and trees. Shijingshan District is more peaceful than the downtown. I love it here. As a student majoring in physical studies, I can also learn a lot from the athletes here.



Kayla Gump, 28, American

It is a little bit far from downtown, but it's ok. Chinese people are so warm-hearted. I was about to take a taxi from Xizhimen to the Shooting Hall when I met a Chinese guy who was heading in the same direction so he gave me a lift.

(By Gan Tian)
Photos by Gan Tian

Finding himself through hip-hop

By Jackie Zhang

After 11 years in the circus and 17 years as a hip-hop dancer, Mourad Merzouki's life has been all about dance and performance. "As a dancer, I know who I am and what I want," Merzouki said Tuesday.

Merzouki is the choreographer for the Kafig Dance Company, a hip-hop group, in France. He is working with the Beijing Modern Dance Company (BMDC) and Sichuan Modern Dance Company to direct *Recital*, a performance that combines hip-hop and modern dance.

"Hip-hop dance is mostly seen in the streets, while modern dance is confined to the stage. This is the first time I have mixed modern dance and hip-hop for

a play, let alone a play in China," Merzouki said.

Hip-hop previously had no connection to modern dance. "Hip-hop is mostly a dance for young people. People usually do it for fun. But modern dance is usually performed in theater and tells a story. The mixture will have a larger audience," Merzouki said.

His career as a hip-hop dancer has its origins in the circus. At age 7, Merzouki joined the circus and worked there for 11 years until

he turned 18. "The circus job was interesting. I performed for lots of people," he said. "When I encoun-

tered hip-hop, I loved it immediately. When I was 18, I became a hip-hop dancer and remain one to this day."

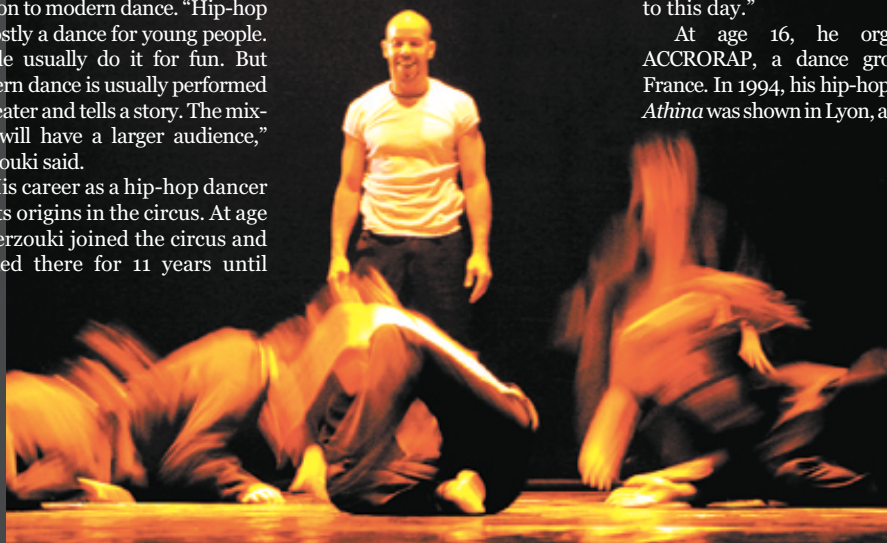
At age 16, he organized ACCRORAP, a dance group in France. In 1994, his hip-hop dance *Athina* was shown in Lyon, an exhi-

bition which put hip-hop formally on the stage. In 1996, Merzouki established the Kafig Dance Company. Since then, he has continuously innovated the hip-hop language with diverse dance patterns and stage design.

"For professional dancers, the key element we must learn is to tell the audience a story, to convey messages through our bodies and movements. We need to make people dream and imagine by dancing," he said.

"Dance means much for me," Merzouki said. "I was born in Lyon, France, but my parents are Africans. Most people in France don't consider me French. But as a dancer, I don't need to care whether people consider me French or African: I am a dancer, and that's enough."

Photo provided by BMDC



Calligraphy transforms Spanish artist's works

By He Jianwei

"Maybe it is because both of us love calligraphy that we take photos of electrical wires in India," Qiu Zhijie, a Chinese artist, said, after he saw the works of a Spanish colleague.

Frederic Amat, 56, gave his first solo exhibition in the Beijing Institute Cervantes for the close of the Spanish Cultural Year in China. Among the works, he collaborated with Qiu in a piece called *Correspondence*, which took the two of them months to finish.

Amat is a versatile painter, sculptor and theater set designer. He is also the logo designer of the Spanish Cultural Year in China.

The logo looks like a Chinese character written with a brush. In fact, it contains two eyes, which "symbolizes two different cultures and how they look at each other," Amat said. He painted it with his finger.

"I enjoy Chinese calligraphy, but I cannot understand the meaning of each character. In my eyes, they look like a dance. I can per-

ceive the movement of the dance in the calligraphy," he said.

Amat was interested in Chinese culture from age 5. "China is like a scent in my memory, and I still remember the smell now," he said.

In his house, his father had an ancient cabinet from China. "I was told it was a cabinet made in the 19th century. It was not very tall, and was engraved with scenery of mountains and trees," he said.

When he opened the cabinet, the exotic smell was something he

never forgot. "It smelled different from the other furniture. It smelled mysterious," he said.

In the cabinet, they had several teapots and cups made of china. "I still remember the posture of the dragon engraved on the cup. I collected china when I grew up," he said.

Amat taught himself to paint. In the 1970s and 1980s, he started to draw stones and grass. "The traditional Chinese painters liked to draw the same things, but I found that in my paintings, the stones and

grass lacked a soul," he said.

In the following years, he began to draw black and white paintings, as the Chinese painters worked in ink. "The color of black is like a king, which includes and protects the other colors. Gradually, I found the soul in my painting when I went back to color," he said.

Calligraphy and wash influence him a lot. "When I took the pictures of electric wires in India, I felt like I was writing calligraphy with my camera," he said.



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Affordable art available next weekend

By Annie Wei

The third Affordable Art Beijing (AAB) will see 500-600 pieces of art sold for under 10,000 yuan each at the 798 Art District next weekend.

It's a good opportunity for the increasing art consumers on a limited budget in the city who have interests in original pieces.

Two previous affordable art events in 2006 and 2007 have brought the concept a good reputation. For young and unknown artists who find it hard to have their own solo show, it is a good chance to present their work to the public. Buyers are interested in it as well. One artist's work sold for 8,000 yuan at 2006's AAB and now is reported to have sold for 250,000 yuan at a recent auction.

Compared to the last two events, the coming AAB has attracted many more artists who want to display their work.

"As we want to maintain the quality of the work and also because we have a limited space we will probably only end up exhibiting 25 percent of the work that has been submitted," Tom Pattinson, organizer of the AAB and executive editor for *Timeout* English, said.

In the previous two events, the highest price for one art piece was



Second Affordable Art Beijing at the 798 Space attracted many visitors last year. Photo by Tomsin Roberts

8,000 yuan. But organizers found that, although this price is very affordable compared to the Chinese art market, it was still expensive for a younger local audience, so this year 50 percent of work will be sold for under 5,000 yuan, Pattinson said.

The coming event will present not only paintings, but also photography, designs and sculptures.

The idea of affordable art came to Pattinson when he returned to

Beijing in 2005. He discovered that he could not afford any paintings, and that Chinese art was only accessible to the incredibly wealthy. He asked his friend Tamsin Roberts, founder of the Red-T gallery, what they were going to do.

Knowing many artists and people in the art industry, Pattinson and his friends found out that the expensive cost of Chinese contemporary art came from the profit margin of many levels of

middlemen, from galleries to auction houses. On the other hand, many young and talented artists were lacking support to show their work to the public.

The idea of Affordable Art Beijing is to provide young artists a platform, and the public can also offer an original piece of art if they like. It is run as a non-profit event, 90 percent of what sells goes directly to the artists and 10 percent is to cover basic costs.

International students team up with Special Olympics athletes

By Katharine Mitchell/Annie Wei

The Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) sports fields yesterday welcomed 120 student athletes from international schools across China to compete until Saturday.

There are here to compete in the 2008 ACAMIS Soccer Championships.

The event includes a celebration of sport and a Friendship Match of Soccer with Special Olympics athletes, some of which are members of the Gold Medal winning China National Team from the 2007 Special Olympics.

The Friendship Match, taking place following the Opening Ceremonies, was an opportunity to promote awareness and understanding of Special Olympics athletes, which hopefully will lead to further accep-



WAB's boys high school soccer team

Photo by Walk Hall

tance and inclusion into the community and society, WAB said.

The Special Olympics is a global sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities. In China, over 500,000 athletes train and compete in sports

such as soccer.

ACAMIS, Association of China and Mongolia International Schools, has 39 member schools from the China mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mongolia, representing over 28,000 students.

Embrace the magic of Malta

By Gan Tian

Five people from Malta visited Beijing as China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market opened on Monday at Guomao.

The group is comprised of travel agency employees based in Malta. Their primary goal is to promote their country's tourism. "We have a 7,000-year-old culture. Some of our temples are 5,000 years old. One of Malta's most important features is its history and culture," Sharon Borg Ferrando, sales manager of Micer Leisure, said.

Anyone interested in visiting the country, should book at least a five-day holiday there, Alan Debattista, the managing and

marketing director in Dream Holidays International, suggested. Trevor Zahra, group director of sales leisure in Island Hotels Group, mentioned that Valletta, Sliema and Gozo are must sees for foreign visitors. "Malta actually is one of the cheapest destinations in Europe," he added.

"There are less than 50 Maltese living in Beijing, but there are 11,000 Chinese living in Malta," Debattista said, "and each of them has his or her own restaurant."

The group also mentioned that the Maltese Embassy in Beijing would like to bring typical Maltese cuisine here. "We will soon open a restaurant in Beijing," Ferrando

said. "We have the best wine, swordfish, rabbits and goat meat," Debattista added, "Our Grand Maitre sells for €60 per bottle on the market."

Debattista said one of the similarities between the Chinese and Maltese is that both peoples are very warm-hearted and welcoming. "The Maltese are famous for their congeniality and that is one reason why many world tourists keep returning to our islands," he said.

The visitors enjoyed a pretty busy week in Beijing, not only because of the work, but also "party-ing every night, even with the Maltese Ambassador," Debattista said.

Event

Tunes and talk: Chinese folk music and instruments

The Chinese Culture Club invited six musicians from the China National Folk Music Orchestra to perform selections of traditional Chinese music. They will introduce melodies and instruments with stories illustrating their meaning in Chinese culture. These prestigious artists will play some folk melodies using eight traditional instruments such as the Erhu, the Pipa, the Guzheng and others lesser known but just as exotic in their own way.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 25, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341

Karin Park in Beijing

Karin Park is one of Norway's most critically-acclaimed pop/rock performers. In 2003, 24-year old Karin Park was a critically acclaimed talent, already having produced several radio hits. She won the award for "best newcomer" for her debut album by the Norwegian music business, and the debut album's title track "Super world Unknown" was nominated by one of Norway's biggest radio stations as one of the best Norwegian songs of all time. Three years later, the now 27-year old – still based in Bergen – is an experienced and adult artist, with stronger, more varied and characteristic pop tunes.

Where: New Get Lucky Bar, A1, Nurenjie, Chaoyang District

When: April 27, 9:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Forum: CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility in China

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce in China will organize an experience sharing forum. The target group of this forum is high level managers from member companies with an overview of their company's operations. They will discuss and share experiences about "CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility in China." The base level of responsible behavior for any organization is legal compliance and the government has a role to play in setting standards in areas such as environmental protection, health and safety and employment rights.

Where: Beijing American Club, 29th floor, China Resources Building, 8, Jianguomen Bei Dajie, Xicheng District

When: April 22, 7 pm

Cost: 280 yuan per member

Tel: 8519 2888

Bands at 2 Kolegas

It's Random's official coming-out party for Tag Team Records, featuring all of the label's heavy hitters. Expect an album from the boys later this year, courtesy of the snarky, but lovable, Beijing hipster indie label.

Where: 2 Kolegas, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, inside the drive-in movie theater park, Chaoyang District

When: April 25, 9 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

(By He Jianwei)

AST excites China this weekend at Daxing

By Zhang Dongya

The Action Sports Tour (AST) Dew Tour 2008 will take place at the International Arena in Daxing District this weekend. It is the first of the kind ever been held in China.

It will feature Skate Park, Vert competitions and a Bicycle Moto-cross (BMX) Vert exhibition. Twenty-six international athletes from eight countries including the US, UK and Canada will compete in the event. The riders were invited based on their AST Dew Tour 2007 points and rankings. Top athletes include Skate Park rider Rodolfo Ramos, Skate Vert rider Pierre-Luc Gagnon, and the legendary Jamie Bestwick in BMX Vert.

In addition, six Chinese athletes will earn the right to compete against the international stars by qualifying from a Chinese tour that will be conducted by Xingyi and the China Extreme Sports Association. Chinese athletes only take part in the Skate Park event.

The AST Dew Tour debuted in June 2005, as the first ever



As extreme sports become more popular among the Chinese young generation, big-scale competitions nationwide or internationally are being held every year.

Photo by Guang Niu

Action Sports Tour. The Dew Tour is made up of five major events that take place over the course of five months, June to October, and

features skateboarding, BMX and freestyle motocross.

The CCTV Olympic Channel will broadcast the event.

Where: Beijing International Arena, Yufa, Daxing District

When: April 19-20

Tel: 8921 2032

Authorities recruiting Olympic homes



One of the Olympic homestay families in Yayuncun in northern Beijing.

Photo by Hu Xuebai

By Annie Wei

As the opening of the Olympic Games approaches, people are getting more concerned over accommodation problems: are there enough rooms available for tourists coming to the Games? Will the rent be ridiculously high?

The local tourism bureau and People's Safety Bureau just began recruitment for Olympic homestay families this year. The authorities are collecting over 1,000 families to provide accommodation for foreign tourists.

The initial price for the rent is from 400 to 600 yuan per day. But, the actual price still depends on the situation of each room, for example, breakfast being provided or not.

Xiong Yumei, vice-director of the local tourism bureau said that the Olympic families are mainly selected

from the downtown area, especially places near the Olympic venues.

Local families can apply for the campaign at a local community committee before the end of April and the campaign will be held in August and September as well.

Tourists who apply to stay with these Olympic families will be allowed to see the National Stadium and the Water-cube on the courtesy of some big tourist agencies.

Zhao Xin, from the China International Tourism Service, said that they have designed a special package for the tourists choosing Olympic families.

Tourism buses, scenic spot tickets and dining might cost more than usual, Zhao said.

The package would be four nights and five days, and the tourist agency is seeking cheaper deals for customers, Zhao said.

Brief news updates

By Annie Wei

Construction in Badaling ends next Saturday



Traffic at Badaling express way

Photo by Chen Xiaokang

Construction on Badaling express way will delay tourism buses at least an hour and a half from now until next Saturday, April 26.

Normally, a one-day Great Wall tour only takes 9 hours but it was extended another 1.5 to 3 hours.

People still interested in the Badaling tour, should arrange a flexible night schedule at the same time. Remember that the traffic gets more intense on weekends.

500,000 tulips blooming in Zhongshan Park

Zhongshan Park's exhibition of 500,000 tulips runs from this week to mid-May. Entrance costs 10 yuan per person and 5 for students.

3,900 yuan between Beijing and London

The British Airways announced that passengers booking their

flights from now until May 18, can get 3,900 yuan return tickets from Beijing and Shanghai to eight UK cities. The 3,900 yuan tickets must be used before the last day of March 2009. With another 1,000 yuan, passengers can go from Beijing or Shanghai, via London to other European cities.

"Come on Beijing" stickers circulated



Stickers circulated at Sanlitun bar street Tuesday night

Photo by Hei Ke

Recently, a local newspaper, Web-site and radio call-in show did promotions to support the Beijing Olympics. They distributed free "Come on Beijing" stickers for people to plaster on their cars this week.

Any organizations or individuals who want to distribute the stickers, please call 5863 5366.

Qianmen Dajie re-opens this Sunday

After one-year of reconstruction, the famous Qianmen Dajie re-opens to public this Sunday as part of the Good-Luck Beijing Marathon routes. However, some spacious *laozihao*, traditional Chinese food restaurants, have to wait another four months to open. The street reflects a Ming and Qing-Dynasty style with some European buildings.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

My US friend has a seven-year-old son. He wants to send him to a local school and wants to know how foreign children apply for local Chinese schools?

There are 85 primary schools open to foreign students registered at the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education's Web site. You can find the phone numbers and main contact persons of these schools from the international and communication column of bjedu.gov.cn. They will help you with more details about how to apply to each school.

I am looking for some coffee pads that keep coffee warm. Do you know where I can find them?

You can find them on the upper floor of Yashou, Ito Yokado or taobao.com. They only cost 20-30 yuan for the UPS connecting ones from online stores.

My wife and I rent a small house in the countryside. I am looking for some solar products, especially the solar hot water heaters or lighting systems. Do you know where I can find them and how much they cost?

Beijing Today called some solar companies and they said, solar hot water costs from 5,000-10,000 yuan, or more; solar heating isolation glass costs from 600 yuan per square meter; and solar lighting in gardens is about 8,000-15,000 yuan.

Huangming Solar Company

Where: room709, building A, Beihuanzhongxin, 18 Yumin Lu, Xicheng district.

Tel: 8225 4612

Linuo-paradigma

Where: 308/ 2-308 Boyuan building, 72 Youanmen Nei Dajie, Xuanwu district

Tel: 6920 0268

Where can I get the iPhone-look-alike Chinese phones? How much does it cost and what is the quality like?

Local digital product reviews have recommended a brand named Hiphone, made by an unknown small factory in South China.

It looks like the iPhone, with a good finish, a bit thicker, and is more suitable for use in China since lots of iPhone functions are not applicable here yet. It costs only 1,300 yuan. You can find the product at Zhongguancun electronic malls, Haidian District.

I have a car back home and I want to bring it to China? Which authority body should I go to?

Take your passport, resident permit and work visa to a local customs office for the procedures. Please get more detailed information from a customs office. (By Wei Ying)

Young souls need

A two-generation talk between curators and

By He Jianwei

"Staying in one's own apartment can help protect one from the outside world and avoid life's pressures," Feng Boyi said. One day, the 1960s-born curator was curious about how people born around 1980s, the "self-centered" generation, would think about it. He posed the question to 12 young artists, and their answers became the exhibition Hidden Life – Apartment Diary.

A shelter-like place is constructed on the lower level of the Lin & Keng Gallery, from 700 white quilts. Visitors can take off their shoes and repose on the quilts. Ten videos are shown from holes in the wall and were made by the artists for the opening of the exhibition. In front of it, the artists talked about their "hidden lives." Later that day at a coffee bar in 798 Art District, Feng spread his own thoughts and the communication with the young artists. *Beijing Today* transformed the talk into the form of a dialogue. It was found that both sides focused on the same subjects: insecurity, loneliness and ego.



Liang Yuanwei posts pictures on her blog that records her daily life.

Peng Wei does wash painting onto lay figures.



Zhou Jing's Dolls still make people feel a sense of loneliness.

Shen Yang observes the relation between insects and humans in her apartment.



Is it safer to go back to the womb?

“

All the quilts hug the visitors and offer them protection from the outside world, although that protection is only temporary.

”

Insecurity

Feng Boyi: When I started to curate the exhibition, I considered the topic at two levels: one being the status of the current culture and the other the status of the artists' creation. The Chinese artists who were born in the 1960s and 1970s, grew up in a comparatively simple, stable society and economy, experiencing their life in a turbulent age full of political movements. This is an opposite situation to the young artists we present in the exhibition who grew up in a stable, political environment but experience their life in an unstable economic society. Nowadays, the coming of information age and the support of computer technology have made it possible to live in a diversified society. I am curious about the influence of social changes on the younger generation.

Peng Yun: I suffer from chronic insecurity. I was born and lived in a small town in my childhood in Sichuan Province. I used to have meals with my parents when I came back home. But in a big city, such as Shanghai, even the lovers cannot meet and have lunch together every day.

Feng Boyi: When I first heard the word "insecurity" from the younger generation, I wondered what caused them to feel so insecure. I asked Chi Peng (one of the artists) whether he was satisfied with his current life. He told me he was very satisfied with his material life because he could afford what he wanted. Maybe their insecurity is from the great changes in the economy and society. People's social values change as society changes.

Chi Peng: The living environment that I admire is an isolated life because I will not be hurt by the outside world. The idea of my work, "Soft," in which I used 700 quilts, comes from a game I played in my childhood. When I was six years old, the quilts at my grandma's house were always piled high on my bed. I used to squeeze my hand into the crack of the quilts, sometimes even pushed my head in. My grandma always blamed me for making the quilts a mess. Because of her harsh words, I became wilder: I rode on top of the quilts, balancing till all of them were loose. I made my installation to represent one's own castle where one can jump as high as he or she likes and not worry about injury. All the quilts hug the visitors and offer them protection from the outside world, although that protection is only temporary. All the quilts hug the visitor and offer protection from the outside world, although that protection is only temporary.

Yang Dazhi cares about the sur-real world.

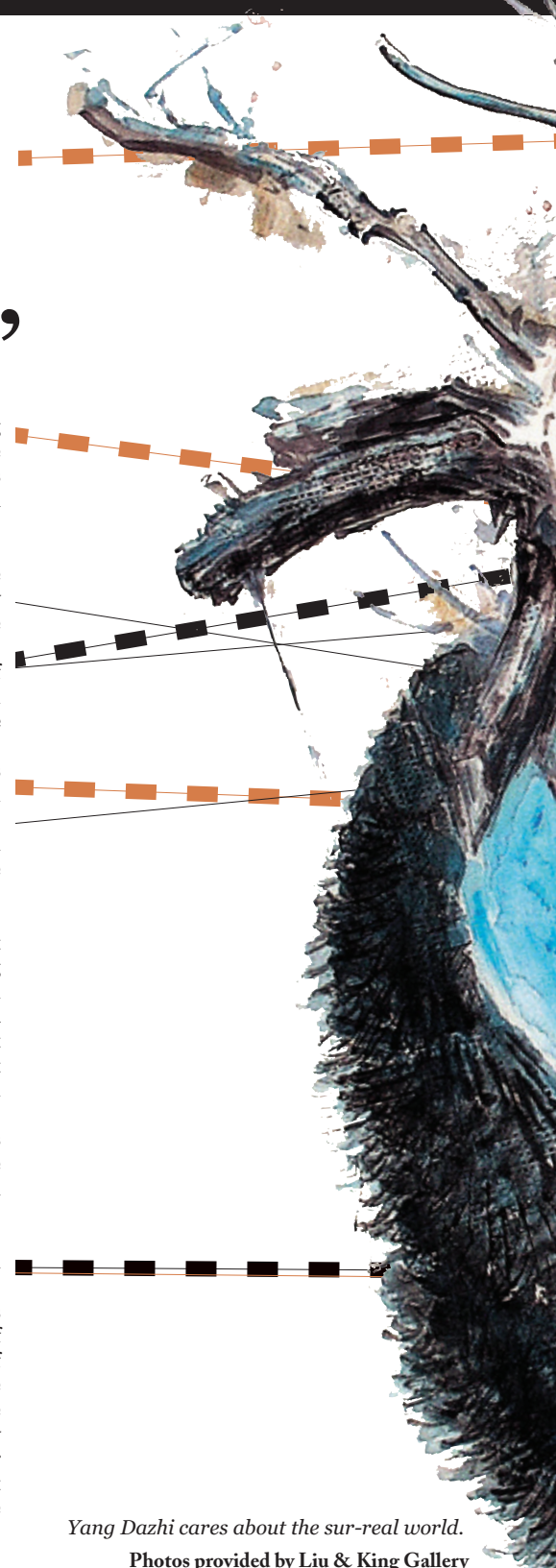
Photos provided by Liu & King Gallery

“ It seems that I live in the world I create. ”

I, me, mine

Feng Boyi: The adoption of self-portrait is old hat to the artists. The artists used their own portraits, usually drawn in ugly fashion and self-mocking. The portraits through their lens are beautiful. They are confident about themselves. From the content of their works, I seldom cared about the world if they weren't part of it. Their works reflect a private and directed inward.

Peng Wei: Perhaps I am an art-for-art artist. I seldom care about anything



comfort

artists



ing. When I emptied the trash one day, I found two lay figures near the trash can. I took them home and started to draw on them. Seldom considering the media of the painting, I just like to paint ink and wash paint, so I drew birds and flowers on them.

Shen Yang: It seems that I live in the world I create. If you look at my works, you may draw the same conclusion. In my old apartment, when you dropped a piece of candy, many ants would appear. I was always anxious about this occurrence, so I put them into my works. In one room, the insects and humans live together.

Feng Boyi: I do believe every piece of work reflects the characteristics of the age. As a curator, my task is to find out what these different types of characteristics are and how they are reflected in the work.



“ They live together with others, but still feel alone and lonely. ”

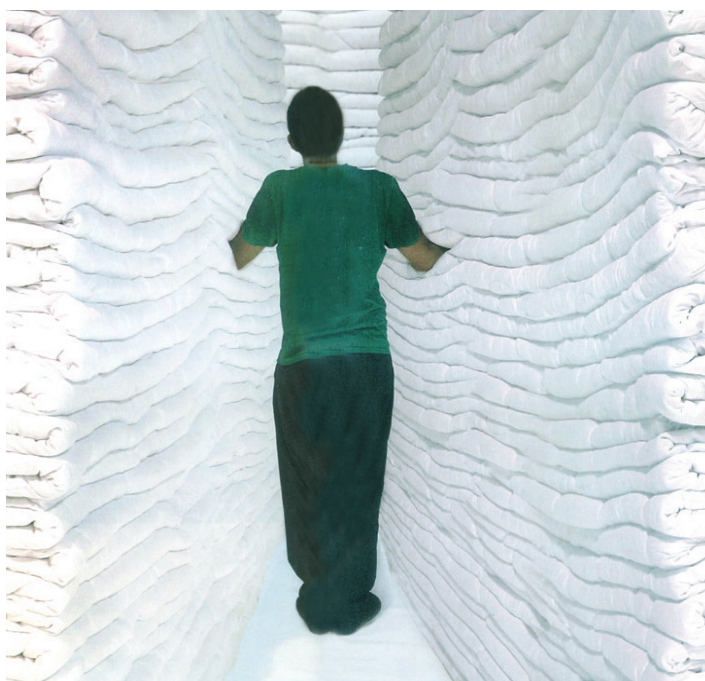
The last word in lonesome is me

Feng Boyi: When I saw the works of these artists, I found it interesting that some of them were not made from the standpoint of artistic creation. They are from their blogs. They wrote blogs and posted pictures. The Internet has changed communication among the younger generation. Give them a computer and they live well. They talk with people online, play the games online and create works online. One of the negative effects is that the Internet isolates them from the outside world.

Peng Yun: In fact, every one in our generation feels lonely. We only feel happy when we get together with our friends. But as long as we stay in a room on our own, the sense of loneliness occupies our heart. In my videos, a group of young people around 20 years old play by themselves to kill time when alone. One is playing Play Station 2 in his bedroom; one is killing time with the basins sitting in the washroom; one is teasing his cat on the bed. They live together with others, but still feel alone and lonely.

Liang Yuanwei: Essentially, I am a lonely person. I recorded my life in words and pictures in my blog for the past three years. I always stayed in my apartment and I would go out of my apartment for only two things: buying something and dumping the trash. The blog to me is just like sketches to a painter or a diary to a little girl. I selected over 90 pictures from my blog, printed them directly with an ink-jet printer, and then washed them on the wall using water. I will move out of the apartment next month. When the color of the photos is faded and steamed off the walls, it will be a farewell gift to that period in my old apartment.

Feng Boyi: Most of the young generation prefers to stay at home. I have an 11-year-old boy, who always stays home and plays by himself, when he comes back home. I feel he is lonely. One of the artists, Zhou Jing, exhibits a series of photos called “Doll.” Dolls are the playmates of many people in their childhood. The dolls look gorgeous, but you still feel a sense of loneliness.

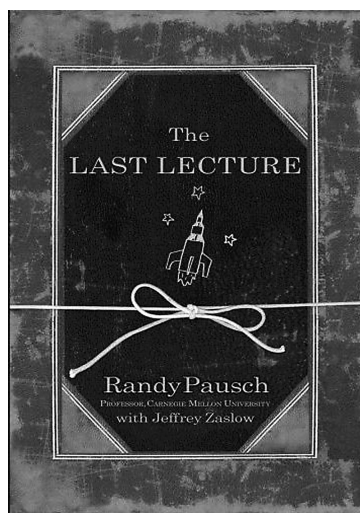


Quilts give more security to the younger generation.

Hidden Life – Apartment Diary

Where: Lin & Keng Gallery, 101, 1F, 3, Dongbinhe Lu, Andingmen, Dongcheng District
When: Until May 11
Admission: Free
Tel: 8422 2322

Understanding the gender divide



Final lecture reaches audience of millions

The last lecture is a part of many universities. A lifetime professor sums up the entirety of his career in one final attempt to impart all the knowledge he has gained to an audience.

Randy Pausch, 47, gave his last lecture last September at Carnegie Mellon University. But for Pausch, it really was his last lecture. Pausch was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer, a disease which kills 95 percent of the people who have it. He underwent surgery and chemotherapy, but the month before his speech, the cancer returned, metastasized and spread to his liver and spleen.

Doctors predicted he would leave behind his wife and three children within three to six months. In his last lecture, he left a message so powerful it has already been translated into seven languages.

"We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand," he said repeatedly.

The lecture was taped and spread to YouTube, and landed Pausch a final book deal: *The Last Lecture* (224pp, Hyperion, \$12.07). The book contains what Pausch calls the "long version" of his lecture, the six-hours no audience would have been willing to sit through.

In both his lecture and book, Pausch focuses on his childhood and family, and how he went about achieving his childhood dreams and how others can do the same. Perhaps more importantly, he talks about how to enable others to achieve their own dreams.

"Brick walls are there for a reason: they let us prove how badly we want things," Pausch said repeatedly in his lecture. The walls are there to separate the people who kind of want something from the ones who are truly hungry for it.

His book is not philosophical. It does not delve into the human psyche or attempt to unravel mortality. Pausch focuses on life: how to manage your life, make the most of it and how to learn.

(By Derrick Sobodash)

By Charles Zhu
In January 2005, Laurence Summers, then the president of Harvard University, suggested at a conference on diversifying the science and engineering workforce sponsored by the National Bureau of Economics Research that factors outside of socialization could explain why there are more men than women filling high-end scientific and engineering positions. He suggested men's higher variance in relevant innate ability or innate preference could be part of the reason – a suggestion that cost him his presidency.

Not long after, Steven Pinker, a psychology professor, said in an interview at the Harvard Crimson that Summers' remarks were scientifically justified and should not be considered as offensive as part of academic discourse.

Susan Pinker, a psychologist and a columnist at *The Globe and Mail* in Toronto, wrote a monograph (*The Sexual Paradox*, 340 pp, Scribner, US \$26) on the matter to

explain why girls perform better than boys in the classroom but fall behind in the workplace.

"In the US, boys are three times more likely to be placed in special education classes, twice as likely to repeat a grade and thrice more likely to drop out of school," she said.

If you were to predict the future on the basis of school performance alone, she argues, the world would be a matriarchy.

However, it is not so. Once they move from school to work, men on average earn more money than women. Men dominate in national government, corporate leadership and sciences. Women are more liable to leave the workforce and end up with lower pay.

To support her argument, the author quotes a female law professor at one of the Ivy League universities, as saying, "I'm very skeptical of the notion that society discourages talented women from becoming scientists. My experience at least from the educational phase of my life, is that the very opposite is true."

Pinker said it is all because women's brains are inferior and vary considerably from men's. Scientists found that newborn girls showed more interest in looking at human faces while newborn boys preferred mechanical toys.

This explains the workplace gender divide, she said. Women are more concerned with inherent rewards and are interested in a much wider range of things. This makes them more liable

to be serviceable and are more skilled in gauging the effect they have on others. Pinker argues that these are not learned traits, but are the result of the genes and hormones.

Ever since the time in the womb, men are generally exposed to higher levels of testosterone, making them more aggressive, assertive, competitive, vengeful and undaunted, Pinker said. Women, on the other hand, get a regular dose of oxytocin, which helps them read people's emotions. They are the "truest social enabler." The level of prolactin, together with oxytocin, rises during pregnancy, breastfeeding and caretaking.

The author comes to the heart of the gender divide at the workplace by saying that because of their biological makeup, most women want to limit the amount of time they spend at the workplace and to find inherent meaning there, as opposed to domination.

She urged schools to take a fair consideration of troubled boys and give them greater attention.

THE
SEXUAL
PARADOX
MEN, WOMEN, AND THE REAL GENDER GAP
SUSAN
PINKER

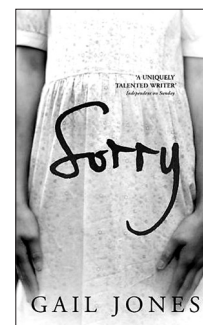
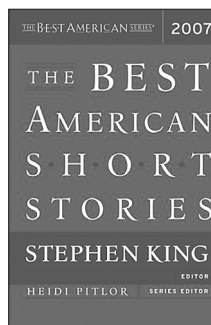
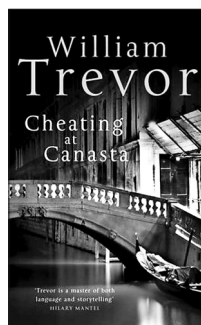
"Fascinating, insightful, and deeply captivating. Every thinking man and woman should read this book."
—LOUISE BRONFENBRENNER, PhD, author of *The Family Man*

Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

Sorry
By Gail Jones, 256 pp, Harvill Secker, 200 yuan

In the remote outback of North-west Australia, English anthropologist Nicholas Keene and his wife Stella raise a curious child, Perdita. Her childhood is far from ordinary: a shack in the wilderness, with a distant father burying himself in books and an unstable mother whose knowledge of Shakespeare forms the backbone of the girl's limited education. Emotionally adrift, Perdita develops a friendship with an Aboriginal girl, Mary, with whom she will share a very special bond. She appears content with



her unusual family life in this remote corner of the globe until Nicholas Keane is discovered murdered.

The Best American Short Stories
By Stephen King, 448 pp, Houghton Mifflin Company, 120 yuan

The Best American Short Stories 2007 presents a collection of stories selected from magazines in the US and Canada, including Richard Russo, John Barth, Alice Munro, T. C. Boyle, Louis Auchincloss and Kate Walbert.

These stories examine the turning points in life when we, as children or parents, lovers or friends or colleagues, must break certain rules in order to remain true to ourselves.

Cheating at Canasta
By William Trevor, 231pp, Viking, 270 yuan
"No matter what," Julia had said, aware then of what was

coming, "let's always play cards." And they did. Even with her memory gone, a little more of it each day – her children taken, her house, her flowerbeds, belongings, clothes – their games in the communal drawing room were a reality her affliction allowed. A husband sits in Harry's Bar in Venice, thinking of his wife, whose plea has brought him back to one of their favorite haunts.

(By Zhang Dongya)

The joys of Joy City



Eno's Tee
Photo provided by Eno



By Gan Tian

If you still think Xidan is just a hang-out for teenagers, you are very mistaken. Joy City, opened this February in Xidan, has gradually become fashionable for people in their twenties and thirties. Some international shop brands rushed into the city and, along with other local restaurants, are booming.

Joy City is a great place for shopping and dining, *Beijing Today* cannot resist talking about it. This week we dedicate two pages to helping you find joy at Joy City.



UNIQLO's Tee

Photo provided by Matsumoto/SHIOGAKUKAN

Eno-pushing a positive attitude

By Li Fenghua

Eno, a creative Shanghai fashion brand, featuring cotton textures and creative designs with all kinds of surprising and funny artwork designed by artists from all over China, opened its first store in Beijing Joy City.

This is a lifestyle company which produces clothes combining sports with street-wise fashion trends. In this way, it conveys a positive living attitude and everybody can be a designer, since the company collects designs from all over the country. Eno is not just somebody else's company, it is also your own

company. In short, collaboration with others like talented Chinese designers, artists and musicians, help Eno create fresh clothing and lifestyle products.

"The first store opened in Joy City in late January. The clothes were produced in Shanghai with limited numbers, about 20 pieces for each design," Yang Haomiao, president of the Eno store in Joy City said, "But the company will produce more if a special design becomes very popular."

Eno specializes in displaying each designer's signature and a brief introduction on the design's brand card which is very special. "The second store in Beijing

will open on April 17 on the 6th floor of the Zhongyou Shopping Mall. It will be Eno's main store," Yang said.

Shi Xue, 29, operation manager of an IT company, bought an Eno t-shirt and put it on at once. "I heard about the brand from a friend and I like the design very much. It introduces you to a new lifestyle concept which combines work with fun and the cotton texture feels very comfortable on your body," he said.

Eno
Where: 4F-51A, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6233
Price: most of the cotton T-shirts cost about 160 Yuan

Putting your best foot forward

By Bai Jingnan

Onistuka Tiger products have always been worn by world champions and Olympians, and the tiger "stripes" are synonymous with sporting triumph. Onistuka Tiger has always stood out from other casual sports brands due to its unique combination of innovation and individuality.

The leading Chinese flagship store opened in Joy City last December. Boasting about 80 square meters, the shop features very creative designs. Floors and walls are dark, but in-store lights highlight the product's bright colors. Both sides are comprised of shoes and clothing. New arrivals are displayed in the middle section and show off brighter colors.

Onistuka Tiger's footwear and apparel combine sports, leisure and personality. Mexico-66

is the classic style, basic and perfect for jogging. Many actors from the film, "Kill Bill," wore Onistuka Tiger's footwear in the movie.

"Our customers are mainly fashionable youth earning a good salary. Footwear prices range from 600 to 1,200 yuan, apparel starts as low as 300 yuan," Wang Fang, manager of Onistuka Tiger, said.

"There are two stores in Beijing with one in Xizhimen, which offers bigger discounts. Three other branches are found in Shanghai, Shenyang and Chongqing," Wang said.

"Compared with other sports brands, especially shoes, Onistuka Tiger has excellent fashion design and great quality, so it's a worth-



Tiger's shoes



Tiger's doorway

while buy." Dongwei, manager of Beijing Taikang Life Insurance Company said. He visits every time there are new arrivals.

Onistuka Tiger

Where: 4F, 56, Joy City, 131, Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 13522761641

Big brands at Joy City

By Gan Tian

There are more than 30 international brands settling in at the first Beijing branch of Joy City. *Beijing Today* invited Jimmy Liu, a lifestyle reporter, to tell us which is which and he should know, he is a Joy City junkie.

F5 COTTONFIELD

Menswear from Denmark. The collection is pretty, sporty and simple.

Where: 13/15, F5, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6055

Lee Cooper

One of the top three casual jeans lines.

Where: 04, F5, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6057

F4

The Thing

A Shanghai T-shirt brand.

Where: 41, F4, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6088

I'm David

A Korean casual brand.

Where: 11, F4, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6088

F3

UNIQLO

T-shirt brand with reasonable prices.

Where: 14/15/17/18/19, F3, Joy City

Tel: 5971 6319

F2



An inside view in Joy City

Motivi

An Italian female fashion brand with bright colors and trendy designs.

Where: 29, F2, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6010

Goirdano Ladies

This Hong Kong-based female brand is specially-designed for the office.

Where: 28, F2, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6135

ARRTCO

A local brand. They have pieces from top local designers.

Where: 14/15/1, F2, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6186

F1

Next

British sportswear. Very environmental.

Where: 15, F1, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6500

B1

Hoyaboby

A gift shop where you can design gifts for your friends and family.

Where: 12, B1, Joy City
Tel: 5971 6675

Continued on page 16...

... continued from page 15

Traditional toast, Nanyang flavor

By Zhang Dongya

It is a Nanyang tradition to start the day with a cup of traditional coffee, called "kopi," and toast at breakfast time. Toast Box, modeled on the Nanyang of the 1960s, has a variety of toasts to pick from, including whole wheat.

It is similar to the neighboring store Bread Talk. Toast Box's interior has a nostalgic ambiance with old posters and fans. There are two styles of decor: traditional and colonial. The branch in Joy City uses the latter.

Enjoy classic, thick toast with a great variety of spreads from traditional kaya, a jam made from coconut milk, peanut butter and jam to savory choices like Pork Floss and spicy Otah, a fish sauce mixture. For diners looking for something a little less crunchy, Toast Box serves traditional golden buns with Hebi Hiam, spicy small dried prawns. Meals include toast, traditional kopi

and half-boiled eggs.

Dianping.com users highly recommend the thick toast with Otah or peanut butter.

The shop manager recommended the following specialties:

Traditional Toast

A piece of cold butter between two slices. The crust is crispy to bite.

Price: 6 yuan

Thai Style Tauhu

A rich source of protein made from minced cucumber, sesame and traditional Thai chili sauce.

Price: 15 yuan

Homemade Barley

Made of top-grade coix seeds that remove dampness and heat and benefit the lungs and spleen.

Price: 12 yuan for hot, 15 yuan for cold

Toast Box

Where: B1-26/27, Joy City

Tel: 5971 6268



Dark Plum in Red Wine
Photo by Jason Wang

Charme, classic Hong Kong style

By Zhang Dongya

Charme Restaurant, established in 2005, serves Chinese and Western fusion fare. The chain operates four branches in Shanghai, and recently opened a new branch in Beijing.

With modern decor, Charme Restaurant has a fashionable and tranquil atmosphere. It is divided into two parts with a non-smoking area near the entrance. It can seat about 200 people and has 9 non-smoking tables.

Charme originated in Hong Kong, and all its locations provide the latest Hong Kong newspapers, including the *Hong Kong Oriental Daily* and *Ming Pao*. All employees – from the manager to the cooks – are drawn from Charme's Shanghai locations to ensure experienced, good service.

The restaurant began as a small Hong Kong teahouse, but

today serves typical Hong Kong food like a daily soup, a bun and fried rice. It also serves other common foods like poultry and sea food. "It has been redesigned to cater to more people, but still maintains a classic food list," Maria, the restaurant manager, said.

Charme began at the start of this month to distribute courtesy cards to customers who spend more than 300 yuan. The cards can be used to get a discount on some dishes.

Maria recommended two deserts and a starter:

Desert:

Jumbo Toast Block with Honey

Big toast with honey, butter and ice cream balls on it. It takes 20 minutes to prepare.

Grandma's spicy recipe

By Gan Tian

The word "grandma" usually conjures up sweet childhood memories – and those images are what diners can find at Sichuan restaurant Lapopo, or Spicy Grandma.

The name is suggestive of its spicy flavor, but the interior has a cool tone with simple, white walls and chairs and tables with smooth edges. Chandeliers and curtains in separate rooms make it look like something out of a fairy tale.

Shuizhuyu, or Fish Boiled with



Lapopo's inside view

Photo by Issac Feng

Oil, the most famous Sichuan dish, is one of the best picks on the menu. The fish melts in your mouth with a spicy and numbing taste.

For those after spicier fare, try the Maoxuewang, a pool of different meats dipped in spicy oil, and Spicy Crabs. But if you are not a pepper fan, try Pumei Dongyin, Chilled Prune Water. It provides a stream of cool, sweet-flavor to put out the fire of Sichuan cooking.

Of course, Grandma sometimes stumbles. Many diners complained that the dishes were slow to arrive and the waitresses did not smile or read back their order. There are many Sichuan restaurants in Xidan, so if Lapopo wants to survive, it will need to bone up on its customer service.

Lapopo

Where: 10/11/12, F7, Joy City

Tel: 5971 6856

Price: 25 yuan (28 yuan with ice cream)

Dark Plum in Red Wine
served with vanilla ice cream

It combines fruit, ice cream and red wine: tasty and refreshing.

Price: 25 yuan

Starter:

Mustard-Flavored Boneless
Chicken Feet Salad

A little mustard adds nice flavor.

Price: 28 yuan

Charme

Where: Shop 6F-01, Joy City

Tel: 5971 6022

Eating healthy in Oritaste

By Li Fenghua

Oritaste, a restaurant founded in 2006, opened its third store in Joy City earlier this year. The restaurant is popular with the younger city-dwellers who seek a healthier dining experience.

The specialty of this store is health delivered with delicious flavor and fashionable appearance at a reasonable price. The restaurant serves simple dishes from Guangdong.

"The restaurant was geared to the young workers who follow fashion and style, but it still attracts many older diners," Wu Zhuangli, manager of the Oritaste in Joy City, said. Wu recommended the soup, which is

steamed for 3 to 4 hours before each cup is served. "The steamed soup is very healthy. It is ... nutritious and can boost your immune system," Wu said.

The dishes, such as noodles mixed with chili oil and soy sauce, spring rolls stuffed with shredded pork, fried scallion pancakes, caramel custard, longan and red date milk and coconut tapioca are as affordable as they are delicious.

Mixed dishes cost 19 to 24 yuan, including main course, steamed rice, garnish food and a bowl of steamed soup.

Oritaste

Where: 8F, Joy City

Tel: 5971 6270



Flower tea box



Flower tea
Photos provided
by Oritaste

Joy City
Where: 131,
Xidan Bei Dajie,
Xicheng District
Open: 9 am –
10 pm
Tel: 6651 7777

Bringing color to drab appliances

By Zhang Dongya

"The refrigerator is a cold and dull object. But if we color it with artistic design, it becomes warm and beautiful," Xu Sa, a teacher from China Central Academy of Fine Arts, said.

The second Siemens Art Refrigerator Exhibition was held last Friday at Loft 3 Art Gallery. As many as 28 painted refrigerators were exhibited at the event, which raised money to help impoverished women deliver children.



Mother, by Wang Chuxiong



Kitchen, by Zhang Xiaorui

Past and present

Painting on common objects, home appliances and furniture is increasingly popular. Cars, laptops, refrigerators and furniture are the most frequent targets - though they are painted mostly for commercial or charity programs.

It is an ancient artistic tradition to paint on daily used articles and furniture. This form can be traced back to the dawn of history both in the East and the West. During Qing Dynasty, painted furniture reached its zenith.

As technological developments continue to unveil new products, home appliances, cell phones and automobiles have become the new canvas. The combination of technology and art is considered an embodiment of human ingenuity.

It is a habit for Chinese families to use home appliances like refrigerators and washing machines as decorations, that is why Roland Gerke, CEO and president of Bosch and Siemens (BSH)

China, said these beautification contests are so important.

What artists experienced

It was the first time Brazilian artist Heloiza Montuori painted on a refrigerator. She painted a persimmon tree across three panels of the refrigerator as part of a harvest scene.

"In my case, it was quite challenging because I used a palette knife. But it was difficult to use the metal knife on the metal refrigerator without scratching and cutting the surface while still building up texture," Montuori said. "I enjoyed the challenge and was surprised with the results."

Chinese artist Wen Wenwu used oil to paint Chinese peonies with golden grounding on the industrial refrigerator. Wen has also painted wooden chairs and



Color-painted chair by Wen Wenwu
Photo by Wen Wenwu

automobiles.

Wen said painting on these articles is different than on paper or canvas. "Technically speaking, the materials and pain play a larger role, since some materials will behave differently on a metal surface, and



A persimmon tree by Montuori
Photos provided by Siemens

you cannot control the paints as well as you can on canvas," Wen said. "From the perspective of art creation, it is totally different to design in a three-dimensional space."

DIY guide

For people who enjoy painting cell phones, laptop computers or home appliances, the artists offer the following suggestions:

- Carefully think out exactly what you want to paint, including its shape and size, since it is hard to modify the design once you start.
- Roughen the painting surface with sandpaper.
- Carefully select paints and what to apply them with. You could use acrylic, tempera, oil or a felt-tipped pen. Felt pens are easy to use, but there are few colors available. Enamel has a high-level of transparency, but it does not go on even.
- Finish with a clear coat to protect your painting.

NE·TIGER's Hua Fu, finding Chinese fashion

NE·TIGER is trying to shoulder the commission that rebuilt the Chinese gown and heralded a cultural renaissance of Chinese dress. Its 2008 NE·TIGER Hua Fu Series appeared at Boao Forum For Asia's closing ceremony, adding a splash of color to the meeting and hoping to waken the world's awareness of Chinese style.

Five historical colors

The series is divided into five color sections: red, green, yellow, blue and black. Each can be traced back to an ancient dynasty. Black was the favored color in Qin Dynasty (221-206BC), blue in Nanbei Dynasty (420-589) and green in Song Dynasty (960-1279). Yellow and red need no introduction, as they have long been the symbolic colors of China. Designers used black, blue and dark green as grounding to form a contrast to the exquisite embroideries, beads and Swarovski crystals.

Traditional fabric techniques

NE·TIGER hopes to refresh the clothing culture using Jin and Xiu as the materials to realize the five colors renaissance in a new look. Jin refers to the Yun Brocade fabric, which has a 1,500-years his-



tory and has been classified as a UNESCO intangible heritage. Its handmade Zhuanghua process only can turn out 5 centimeters every day. The saying an "inch of Yun Brocade is an inch of gold" emphasize its luxurious value. Xiu is traditional Chinese weaving tech-

niques, integrating embroideries such as Su, Yue, Xiang and Shu. Gowns made with this manual technique take several months to finish. Patterns like fans, lamps and loricae, which bear deep Chinese traditional fingerprints, are used to make the series both elegant and sexy.

Fusion wave

The cultures of the 55 Chinese minorities also provide inspiration for Hua Fu. Apart from Han, people can find typical styles of the Tibetan, Miao, Dai, Yi and Naxi minorities incorporated in Hua Fu dresses. Gorgette, damask, Italian balda-

chin, lace and Swarovski crystal are used to restate the western gown, corsage, pleated skirt and fish skirt - NE·TIGER melds western and modern fashion and solid clipping technology to perfectly fit the Chinese woman's body.

(By Yu Shanshan)

Dining

Peking duck dinner

Beijing is famous for its duck, but there is more to this iconic dish than you might think. It features sliced roasted duck with mandarin pancakes, duck meat stir-fried with noodles, fried rice or vegetables, and duck soup with tofu and Chinese greens.

Where: Dragon Palace, Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30 am – 10 pm

Cost: 158-198 yuan (all prices subject to a 15 percent service charge)

Tel: 6465 3388 ext 4108

**Buyi Band and Zhao Yiran concert**

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: 9:30 pm, April 19

Admission: 60 yuan (including a bottled beverage), 40 yuan (first 200 tickets)

Tel: 8448 3335

Ant Band concert

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 8:30 pm, April 23

Admission: 40 yuan (door), 30 yuan (advance)

Tel: 6425 5677



Nightlife

Aviation

Emirates upgrades its services for the Olympics

Emirates Airline upgraded its services to Beijing with a new aircraft, the Airbus A340-500, on its EK306/307 daily non-stop flight to Dubai. The service upgrade begins with Emirates' relocation to the newly-built Terminal 3 at Beijing's Capital International Airport.

Emirates pioneered the concept of private suites in the industry and will also be the first to launch these in China. The private suites in First Class are fully equipped with individual storage, a coat closet, vanity desk and personal mini bar, extra-large fully-reclining seats, and 19-inch wide-screen LCD displays showing

over 600 channels of Information, Communication and Entertainment (ICE).

Emirates will assist Beijing in promoting it as a modern international metropolis and provide the world with insights into the city's history and culture by showing Vision Beijing – five short promotional films by the world's most famous directors – on its ICE system worldwide in a couple of months.

Currently, Emirates offers Beijing twice daily non-stop flights to Dubai.

Singapore Airlines changes schedules to boost capacity

Singapore Airlines made some adjustments to its schedules in response to changing patterns in demand

for travel. The adjustments will reallocate capacity among the routes and result in an increase overall across the network.

Starting this week, Shanghai services will increase from four to five times daily.

The current four times weekly service between Taipei and Los Angeles will be suspended from October onward. Three new weekly flights between Singapore and Taipei will maintain capacity on the Singapore-Taipei route.

Arrangements are being made to notify those customers affected by the adjustments and to offer them alternative solutions.

For more information please call (65) 6541 5580 or (65) 9753 2126

Outdoors

**Gubeikou to Simatai via Jinshanling**

The hike begins at the Gubeikou section of the Great Wall in Miyun County, very close to the border of Beijing and Hebei provinces. It's not often visited, probably because it is so far away from central Beijing.

The walk starts with a short climb up to a tower on the Wall. There are a lot of towers along this stretch – some in good condition; some crumpled down to foundations only. From the first tower you can see the Wall stretching off into Hebei Province. You will be following it in the other direction, towards Jinshanling. It

would be nice to walk the Wall all the way to Jinshanling, but part of it borders military land and that section is blocked off. This means taking a detour through Spider Valley!

Out of Spider Valley you will enter the fields that surround Hemp Village. Before arriving at the main part of Hemp Village, you will make a turn-off and head back up towards the Wall, following a trail up the valley. It will take about forty minutes and parts of it get a bit steep. There are good views at the top – Gubeikou Wall one way, Jinshanling Wall the other – and you will stop for a snack and a bit of a rest before heading down to Jinshanling.

To get from Jinshanling to Simatai takes about 3 hours, and the walk is steep in places with a lot of steps – in one place it's 107 steps up, then 120 down.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 7:30 am – 6:30 pm, April 19

Cost: 400 yuan, 150 yuan (children under 12)

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

**Datong trip**

Datong in north of Shanxi Province, north China is known for the second-largest of the nearly 51,000 sandstone statues of Buddha in 53 Yungang grottoes; the wooden Hanging Monastery built about 1,400 years ago on the extremely sheer cliffs of Hengshan Mountain. Bridges and corridors connect the different buildings of the monastery.

When: Take the soft-sleeper train to Datong on the evening of April 18 and return on April 20

Cost: 1,700 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

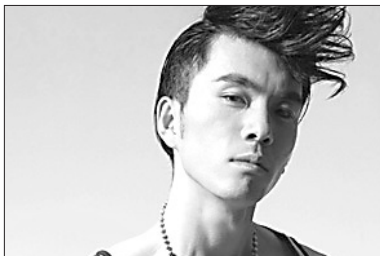
By Gan Tian

If you think you are still a little fat even though you weigh a mere 48 kilograms, you are in danger. "Thinspiration" is the combination of "thin" and "inspiration." Most thinspiration propaganda consists of pictures of thin models with inspirational phrases attached.

Thinspiration is often connected with "pro-ana." Wiki says that pro-ana refers to the promotion or support of anorexia

nervosa as a lifestyle choice rather than an eating disorder. It is often referred to simply as "ana" and is sometimes affectionately personified by anorexics as a girl named Ana. In Western fashion circles, a movement against-pro-ana is in full force. What about China? *Beijing Today* talked to several models in Beijing, asking them to share their personal opinions on fat and slim, and invited a body expert to tell you that beauty also lies in bodacious bods.

A little fat is where it's at



Zhao Zheng

Q1: 188 centimeters, 75 kilograms and 26 years old.

Q2: I am in between.

Q3: Some of my female colleagues are too thin, but for male models, they are ok.

Q4: I work out every day. In the morning, I do two-hours of lifting, and in the afternoon, I run or swim for one and a half hours. I never stay up late, and never eat oily foods.

Q5: Of course, being a model requires you to be thin with a good body shape, but health comes first.



Yao Yang

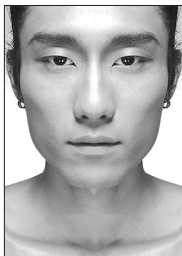
Q1: I am 187 centimeters tall, weigh 154 grams, and am 26 years old.

Q2: I think I am more muscular than most of the other male models.

Q3: There are some thin male models working the market. I think we need them. For example, Homme Dior's trousers are only suitable for thin boys.

Q4: I work out for two hours every day. No junk food for me.

Q5: I do not really recommend being too slim.



Zhu Yan

Q1: I am 25, 185 centimeters tall and tip the scales at 76 kilograms.

Q2: Thin.

Q3: Some female models are too thin, which is terrible. Men? That's ok.

Q4: I only eat beef, chicken and fish as they contain less fat. I eat more vegetables and fruits and I work out 40 minutes to one hour every day.

Q5: I don't think hunks look good. If a male model is too muscular he does not look right. What we need is a good body shape and muscle tone.



Photos provided by Galaxy'93

Zhang Yaowen

Q1: 187 centimeters, 77 kilograms and 25.

Q2: I think I am medium.

Q3: Many Chinese models are thinner than Westerners.

Q4: I play basketball, but I don't have limits on my diet. I eat a little bit whenever I am hungry.

Q5: There are many male models who look pale and thin in Western fashion shows, which certainly is not my style. I think girls should pay more attention to body fat.

Q1: What is your profile?

Q2: Do you think you are slim or fat?

Q3: What do you think of your colleagues? Are they thin enough?

Q4: How do you keep fit? Please note, I mean, keeping fit, not keeping thin.

Q5: What do you think of the movement against thinspiration?"

Jargon

Rachael Guo, a 22-year-old girl, shared some popular jargon she found after she entered the circle. "I am totally out of that, now," she said. "I think I look better when I have a little bit fat on me."

• Ana-Anorexia. The band Silverchair, whose lead singer was anorexic, wrote a song called "Ana's Song."

• BBW-Big beautiful woman. Euphemism for a spherical or giant-pear-shaped woman who hates normal-sized people a lot and calls them all anas.

• Diet. "I'm just on a diet." = "I'm starving myself to death! Won't you please notice me, PLEASE?"

• ED. Eating disorder. Euphemism for attention-starved lunatics drawing attention to themselves by starving to death.

• Mia-Not. "missing in action" but "mia" from Bulimia. The two, "ana" and "mia," tend to go hand in hand in these communities, as the girls share tips on the best methods to induce vomiting and diarrhea.

Expert opinion

Li Xiaohui, researcher majoring in physical health at Beijing Sport University, shared her comments on thinspiration.

• Modeling is a special field, so do not compare your body shape with that of models.

• In general, men have less tendency to be affected by thinspiration than women.

• Some of the models lifestyles' could be attached to ordinary people's daily lives, for example, eat more vegetables and fruits, never stay up late at night, and working out is a good practice.

• Zhang Yaowen's habit of snacking is quite useful if you have a big stomach and do not want to get fat: just snack when you get hungry.

• For men, you are supposed to carry 10 to 15 percent fat, and for women, 10 to 25 percent is okay.



Sun Yaman

Q1: I am 177 centimeters tall and weigh 54 kilograms. Can I keep my age secret?

Q2: As a model, I am not that thin, but as an ordinary person, I am thinner than most.

Q3: I cannot give a specific comment on China's models. Most of them are so slim, but some diamonds company clients prefer plumper models. Some of them have bigger bone structure.

Q4: I give myself a little psychological encouragement: I cannot eat too much. Oily foods are out of my life. Also, I do a lot of running and swimming.

Q5: It should be promoted in China, because health comes first. Western female models have fatter body shapes, so they do not worry too much about this.



Li Zheng

Q1: I am 178 centimeters tall, weigh 53 kilograms and I am 22.

Q2: Thin? Yes.

Q3: Come on, no matter if you are an ordinary people or a super-model, every girl wants to be a little bit thinner!

Q4: My private trainer told me I can only eat sweet potatoes, yams and corn as staple foods, but I do not have very good regular dining times due to my work. Oh, and I do participate in sports.

Q5: It is not possible here. Many Chinese clients still think that thin models are best. I think it is not a big problem if you are thin, but you have to look healthy and inspiring.



Li Ye

Q1: I am 177 centimeters in height and weigh 52 kilograms. Age? That's a secret.

Q2: Medium, because I have a good lifestyle.

Q3: No comment.

Q4: I never snack. And I eat vitamins and a lot of fruits and vegetables.

Q5: Some of them are really too thin. Some of them know it is unhealthy, but you know what? Modeling is an unhealthy business.

Hangzhou Gulf now an accessible destination

The cities and regions around the Hangzhou Gulf have abundant tourism opportunities. Eat fresh seafood in the Zhoushan Archipelago, pick juicy waxberries in Cixi and Yuyao city and visit ancient towns in Jiaxing and Cixi.

Visiting all the sites in one shot used to be difficult. When the Hangzhou Bay Bridge opens to traffic next month, the situation will change. It will only take two hours to go from Jiaxing to Cixi, Zhejiang Province, two cities located at the north and south sides of the gulf. There is no need to take a detour through other cities to cross from the gulf's north to its south side.

Hangzhou Bay Bridge

Hangzhou Bay Bridge crosses the Hangzhou Bay to connect Jiaxing and Cixi. The 36-kilometer long sea bridge is the world's longest, and is the second longest bridge in the world after the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in the US.

The bridge helps shorten the distance between Ningbo city, Zhejiang, and Shanghai city by 120 kilometers. It releases the traffic pressure on Huhangyong Expressway, which is the only highway connecting Shanghai and Zhejiang Province.

South end: Cixi

Cixi has existed since Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BCE). Porcelain, reclaimed land and an immigration history are its three main features.

The waxberry gardens in Cixi are a nice sight in early June. You can pick juicy waxberries and tour scenic spots. Every June, Cixi holds a waxberry festival. Dashan waxberry garden, Qiaotou biological waxberry garden and the other six waxberry gardens usually participate.

The Yue kiln remains is one of the birthplaces of Chinese porcelain. It was also the center of porcelain production in the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties. There is a group of protective kiln remains that covers 30 square kilometers.

Among these remains, 11 are from the Eastern Han (25-220) and Three Kingdoms (208-280) periods; nine are from the Dongjin (317-420) and Nanchao (420-589) dynasties; 173 are from the Tang and Song dynasties. The Yue kiln is the most famous porcelain kiln site from ancient times, and Shanglin Lake is its birthplace. In ancient times, Yue porcelain was not only for Chinese officials and normal residents, but was also exported to foreign countries.

Today, you can visit the kiln remains in the Shanglin

Lake area and see the birthplace of Chinese porcelain.

North end: Jiaxing

Jiaxing is the north end of the Hangzhou Bay Bridge. To its south is South Lake, one of the three famous lakes of Zhejiang Province. To the southwest is Xinan Lake. People call the two lakes the Mandarin Duck Lakes.

South Lake is famous because it was the site of the First Representative Conference of China's Communist Party. There is a revolution museum along the lake side to record the history.

The South Lake region has several spots worth visiting, lake islands, gardens on the lakeshore, an ecological oasis and ancient streets.

The Qiantangjiang River tidal waves in Haining, Jiaying city, are some of the most spectacular in the world. Every month, you can see the waves come in, in Haining. The best place for viewing the tide is at Haitang Town. Before the tide arrives, the river is quiet and smooth. The tide moves from the east to the west quickly with a huge sound like thousands of galloping horses.

Around: Zhoushan Archipelago

The Zhoushan Archipelago, with its 1,390 islands, is China's largest island group. It combines oceanic culture and Buddhism. There are more than 1,000 Buddhist temples, mountains, beaches and fisheries on the 23 main islands.

Putuo Mountain is one of the four most famous mountains for Buddhism in China. It has three big temples and 88 nunneries with 4,000 monks and nuns.

Zhujiadian Island is famous for its sand. Its nine beaches stretch for 5 kilometers. The sands are exquisite and the beaches are flat and wide. It is a nice place to make sand sculptures.

Peach Flower Island is well known in China for its place in *Legend of Condor Heroes* (She Diao Yingxiong Zhuan), a *wuxia* novel by Jin Yong.

Every year, the local tourism department organizes the Zhoushan seafood festival in June. Tourists and locals can sample a diverse array of seafood.

Around: Yuyao

Yuyao is at the south side of the bridge, near Cixi city. It is famous for its waxberries. The waxberry is known for its lovely color, taste and nutritional value. The Yuyao waxberry always ranks first place in the Zhejiang waxberry competition, which has earned it a reputation as China's "Waxberry City."

Linshan Town in Yuyao is famous for grapes. It is also a tide viewing spot on the south bank of Hangzhou bay. The grapes mature in a 667-hectare farm that is open to visitors.

Danshanchishui is located on Shilin Village in the mountainside of Yuyao's Simingingshan Mountain. It is a scenic zone with natural landscapes and Taoist culture. However, it is most famous for its persimmon. The Persimmon trees bear very soft and sweet fruit in late autumn. Moushanhu Lake in the west of the city is a source of big, fresh and tasty crabs every autumn. Crab festivals are held every year.



Every month there are numbers of people watching Qiantangjiang River tidal waves in Haining.



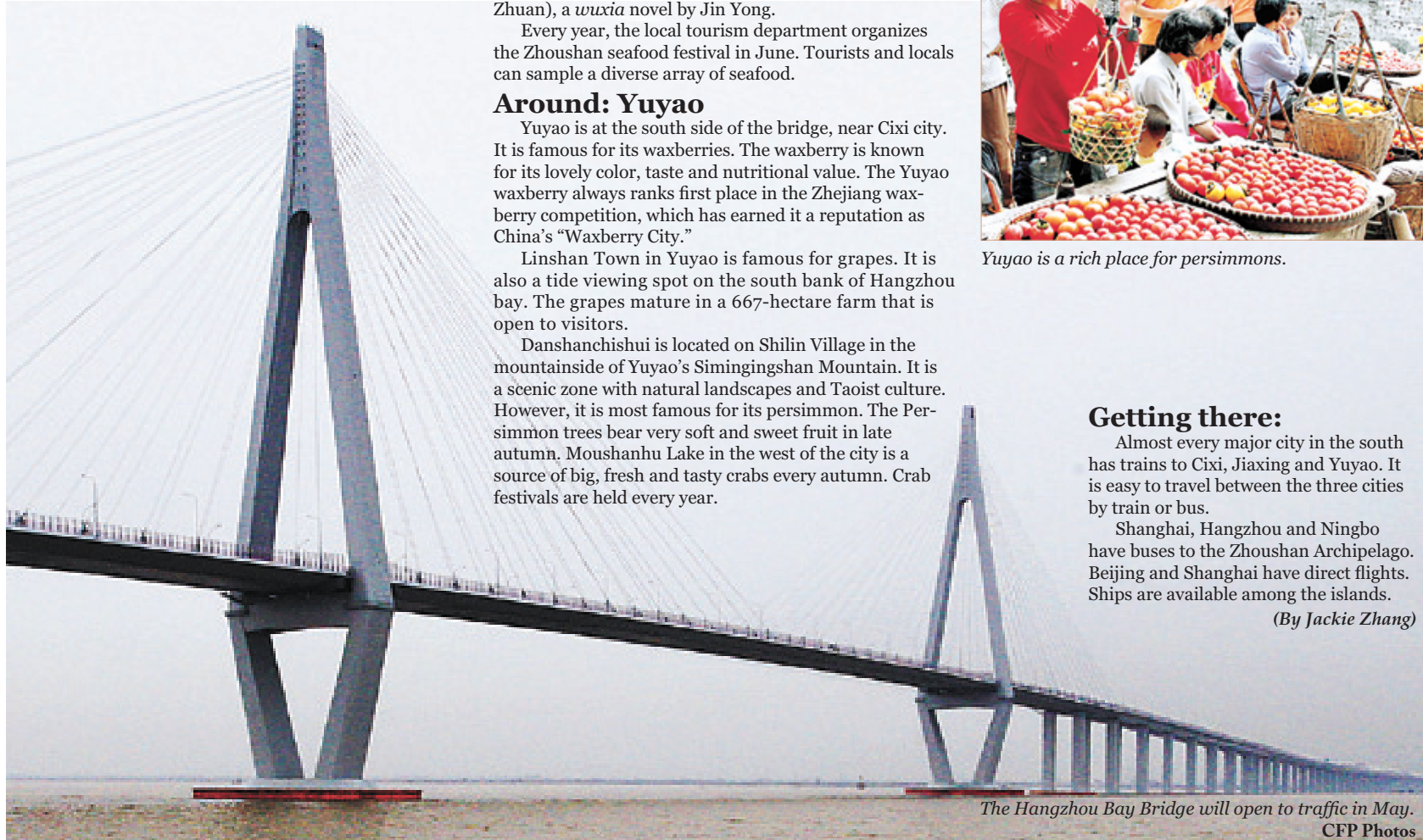
A view of Jiaying



The Buddha and pavilion on Putuo Mountain



Yuyao is a rich place for persimmons.



The Hangzhou Bay Bridge will open to traffic in May.
CFP Photos

Getting there:

Almost every major city in the south has trains to Cixi, Jiaying and Yuyao. It is easy to travel between the three cities by train or bus.

Shanghai, Hangzhou and Ningbo have buses to the Zhoushan Archipelago. Beijing and Shanghai have direct flights. Ships are available among the islands.

(By Jackie Zhang)

What is in store for nature's marvels?



The steep cliffs in the Grand Canyon are ideal for climbers.

Photos provided by the Discovery Channel

Overwhelming depth and detail The Grand Canyon, US

The Grand Canyon is a steep gorge carved by the Colorado River in Arizona, US. It is largely contained within Grand Canyon National Park – one of the first national parks in the country.

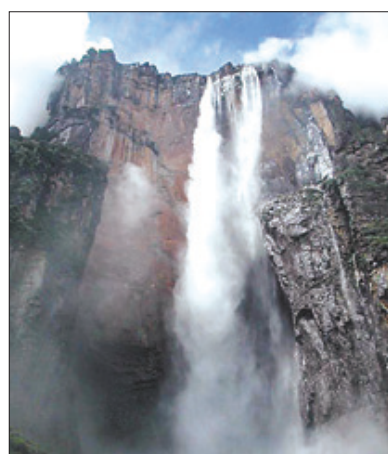
It is not the deepest canyon in the world, but the Grand Canyon is known for its overwhelming size and its intricate and colorful landscape. Geologically it is significant because of the thick sequence of ancient rocks that are beautifully preserved and exposed in the walls of the canyon. These rock layers record much of the early geologic history of the North American continent.

The Grand Canyon is the most phenomenal feat of erosion in geological history. The deep gorge reveals two billion years of the earth's history thorough horizontal bands of sedimentary rock.

Although the Canyon is located in a desert, it was formed by running water. The soil in the Grand Canyon is baked by the sun and tends to become very hard and non-absorbent when rain falls.

Aside from exploring the roads, hiking the trails or floating the currents of the turbulent Colorado River, the visitor can also observe the wildlife in the Grand Canyon National Park.

Tips: Never approach wild animals. Photograph all wildlife from the safety of your vehicle. Use telephoto lenses and observe quietly. It is dangerous – and illegal – to feed wild animals in a national park. Violators will be fined.



Angel Falls is 19 times higher than Niagara Falls.

Tallest falls Angel Falls, Venezuela

Angel Falls is located in the Canaima National Park in Bolivar, Venezuela, along the country's border with Brazil. It is more than 19 times higher than Niagara Falls, making it the highest falls in the world. The water falls an uninterrupted 807 meters.

The fascinating world of the National park in Canaima, is a perfect combination of magic and reality, with impressive tabletop mountains called *Tepuys*, countless rivers, lagoons and falls, forests and savannas in a green sea.

Angel Falls was named after an American aviator who discovered the falls in 1937. Aviator Jimmy Angel landed on the *Tepuys* in search of gold.

The formation of the land was caused by erosion – the displacement of rocks and minerals by strong currents of water.

Tips: There are two ways to see the falls: by boat and by plane.

Most boat tours last two to four days, with overnights in hammock camps. The shortest trip consists of a three to five hour ride in a motorized dugout canoe up the river followed by a somewhat strenuous hour-long trek through the rain forest to the base of the falls.

Small commercial aircrafts fly travelers above and in front of the falls. Although this type of tour is less adventurous than the boating one, most travelers have said a flight gives the best perspective and most spectacular views of Angel Falls.

Largest coral reef Great Barrier Reef, Australia

The Great Barrier Reef is the only living organic collective visible from Earth's orbit. The Great Barrier Reef, off the east coast of Australia, is a wonder of the natural world – it is the world's



Dive to view coral and fish in the Great Barrier Reef

largest coral reef ecosystem.

The reef is scattered with beautiful islands and idyllic coral cays and covers more than 300,000 square kilometers, the area of the UK. The Great Barrier Reef system has 3,000 reefs which range from 10,000 – 100 million square meters.

Coral makes up the reefs and cays. It is the basis for the great variety of sea and animal life in the Reef. Coral consists of individual coral polyps – tiny live creatures which join together to form colonies. Each polyp lives inside a shell of aragonite, a type of calcium carbonate which is the hard shell we recognize as coral. The polyps join together to create forests of colored coral in interesting fan, antler, brain and plate shapes.

The ideal environment for coral is shallow warm water where there is a lot of movement, plenty of light, high salt and low nutrition. There are many types of coral: some are slow growing and live

to be hundreds of years old, and others are faster growing. The colors of coral are created by algae. Only live coral is colored: dead coral is white.

One of the greatest dangers to the habitat is the Crown of Thorns starfish. The impact of a Crown of Thorns infestation on sea and bird life can be significant as the corals die.

Another scourge of the reef is bleaching, where corals have died in large numbers. It is thought that the bleaching has been caused by spikes in water temperature related to the El Nino effect, although the evidence is not conclusive.

Tips: Tourism has a negative impact, with fragile coral broken by reef walking, dropped anchors or by boats dropping fuel and other pollutants. To protect the environment, the visitor must be careful not to pollute, to use established tracks and paths and avoid bird colonies.

(By He Jianwei)

BABEL

(2006)

Vocabulary:

- 1. rifle:** a gun with a long rifled barrel, which is fired from the shoulder.
- 2. jackal:** an African and Asia wild animal of the dog family, which often eats what other animals have killed.
- 3. spy on:** to watch or search secretly.
- 4. dust off:** to clean the dust, remove dust.
- 5. cous-cous:** a North African dish.
- 6. Secretary of State:** a government of official.
- 7. put someone on the phone:** let someone take/answer the call.
- 8. damn:(esp.of God)** to send to punishment without end after death.

(Bai Jingnan)

Movie of the Week

Babel is directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, who also is the writer, with the strongly performance by Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. It was nominated for the 79th Oscars Academy Award Best Picture and Best Score.

Synopsis

In Babel, a tragic event involving an American couple in Morocco sparks a chain of events for four families in different countries throughout the world. Connected by circumstance but separated by continent, culture and language, each character discovers that it is family that ultimately provides solace. Director Alejandro González Inárritu evokes the ancient concept of Babel and questions its modern-day implications: the mistaken identities, misunderstandings and missed chances for communication that, though often unseen, drive our contemporary lives.

Scene 1:

Yussef and Ahmed's House – Day

(Hassan and Abdullah's family are behind the house. Hassan stands with the rifle⁽¹⁾ in front of a rock some twenty yards away and he turns toward Abdullah)

Hassan: With this rifle, your sons will be able to kill plenty of jackals⁽²⁾.

Hassan (cont'd): Let one of your sons shoot.

Abdullah: Let Yussef shoot.

Ahmed: I want to shoot first.

Hassan: Look, load it like this.

Hassan (cont'd): This is the safety. Push it in when you're ready.

Hassan (cont'd): If he doesn't hit the jackals, at least he'll scare the shit out of them.

Abdullah: Your turn.

Abdullah(cont'd): Now this kid shoots a hell of a lot better than you.



Scene 4:

General Store – Evening

(Richard is in the phone booth with telephone in hand. A woman's voice answers.)

Rachel (O.S.): Hello...

Richard: Rachel ... What's going on?

Nobody's come ... Who have you talked to ... we need help ... she's dying ...

Rachel (O.S.): What d'you mean dying?
Richard: She's very weak, please, you've got to do something.

Scene 2:

Yussef and Ahmed's House – Day

(Yussef is still spying. Ahmed approaches.)

Ahmed: what are you doing?

Ahmed(cont'd): I told you not to spy on⁽³⁾ her again.

Ahmed(cont'd): I said don't spy on her.

Yussef: I get up and dust myself off⁽⁴⁾ What the hell do you care?

Ahmed: Come on, let's go.

Scene 3:

Small eatery, Moroccan desert – Later

(The group of tourists spread about a small eatery with open air tables on a dusty terrace. A bus is parked behind them. At a table, on one end of the terrace with views to a cluster of mountains, Richard and Susan look through some menus. Richard seems at ease in this place. Susan appears to be bothered by the dust and otherness. A waiter brings a plate and some cutlery.)

Waiter: (in broken English) You want to order?

Richard: I'll have a chicken cous-cous⁽⁵⁾ a Coke, please.

Susan: What do you have that doesn't have fat in it?

Waiter: Everything is delicious

Susan: I'll have the fried eggplant and a diet Coke

Waiter: We don't have diet Coke.

Susan: Then a regular Coke.

Richard: Look, look: a hawk.

Richard (cont'd): This country is incredible.

Susan: Richard, why did we come here?

Richard: What d'you mean why? I thought you would like it.

Susan: Really? why are we here?

Richard: To forget everything, to be alone.

Susan: Alone?

Susan (cont'd): Throw out the ice.

Richard: The Coke is warm.

Susan: Yeah, but you don't know what kind of water is in there.

Richard: Why can't you ever relax. You're always stressed.

Susan: You're the one stressing me out. You're why I can't relax.

Richard: You could if you tried.

Susan: Tried? Don't you think I tried?

Richard: You're never going to forgive me, are you?

Richard: There's no time. I need to get Susan out of here now! Put Mark on the phone ...⁽⁷⁾

Rachel (O.S.): I don't know if I can find him.

Richard: God damnt⁽⁸⁾, connect the fucking call.

Rachel (O.S.): Richard, it's Mark.

Richard: Mark, help me ... Susan is dying and there are no ambulances, there's no hospital, there's nothing.



Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Lay her to rest

By Jackie Zhang

Jimmy lived with his grandmother for 12 years from the age of 3. His parents had to come to Beijing because of work. As a result, he spent his childhood in Beijing with his grandmother in Xining, Qinghai Province, till he entered high school in Beijing.

Jimmy's grandfather died in the early 1970s. When he lived in Xining with his grandmother, the two were inseparable and deeply in love. Jimmy always tells me that his grandmother is the person he loves most in the world.

His grandmother was good at cooking and every day when he returned home from school, he could smell the sweet aroma of dinner from a distance. "Grandma is good at needlework as well. In my childhood, she made three to four pieces of clothing for me every year. The styles were different from my friends. They were comfortable and smart. I was really proud of her," Jimmy said.

However, three years ago, Jimmy's grandmother died of cancer at the age of 83. He was very sad and I would usually see him sitting silently as if in deep thought.

When a few friends of mine gathered, we talked about Jimmy. Some of us thought we needed to do something to relieve his pain. "I feel bad when I see him unhappy and spending the whole day without uttering a word," I said. "Maybe we can talk with him or organize an outing with him. He may feel better after seeing some beautiful scenery," a friend said.

"But he is busy at the moment I think," Tony, a guy from Scotland, said. "I heard that his family is busy preparing for laying out his grandma. He may not have time."

"Laying out his grandma?" I repeated. "They'll put the body of the old woman outside? But why? Is it a kind of local tradition?"

"No. They're preparing to bury the old lady," Tony said. "The expression doesn't mean they'll lay Jimmy's grandma outside. We can also say they're preparing to lay her to rest."

Jimmy always said that his grandma was busy taking care of everyone in her family. She must be tired. It was time for her to rest.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. No matter

I found some students have a habit of using the phrase "no matter" as an adverb in place of nevertheless or however. The phrase can not be used independently as an adverb. It can only be used by taking a noun clause headed by "whether," "how" or "what." For example: "He is only 13 years old, no matter, he has shown remarkable ability to control himself." This is the wrong usage of "no matter." It should be: "He is 13 years old, however (or nevertheless), he has shown remarkable ability to control himself."

2. Birth their calves

In this case, birth is used as a verb. Though modern English tends to use it as a verb, I found the Webster Dictionary only lists it as a noun. For Standard English, it would be better to use the phrase "give birth to."

3. Earth oven

Earth means soil. In this case, the adjective "earthen" should be used to modify oven. So, it should be: "Earthen oven." It means the oven is made of earth. In English, sometimes the noun, "earth," can be used as an adjective. For instance, the earth people. But, you can never say "earth oven."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. No matter

Younger people like to use the phrase, "no matter" in conversations allowing it to stand alone in a sentence. This might be cool at a beach party but later, when you become a high-powered executive and are attending a snotty business soiree, throwing around this phrase loosely could be frowned upon. It really should not be used as an adverb. Bad example: She can't carry a tune, no matter, neither can Britney Spears and she's done very well." Good example: "She can't carry a tune, however (or nevertheless), neither can Britney Spears and look how well she's done."

2. Birth their calves

In this sentence, "birth" is used as a verb and is quite common in today's English usage. However, accord-

ing to the Webster Dictionary, "birth" can only be used as a noun as in "The Birth of a Nation." So, if you are part of the Webster cult, you might want to rewrite this phrase to read, "give birth to their calves." If not, please continue to "birth" your calves at will and name one after me. That's Joe with an "e."

3. Earth oven

The word "earth" is commonly known and used as a noun so saying "Earth oven" is not grammatically correct. Add an "en" to earth to create an adjective and say, "earthen oven." Better form. Saying "earth oven" might give one the impression that you are baking up a gritty casserole of dirt. Tasty to a 600-pound pig but your husband might demand a divorce.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Preventing fire calamity

By Derrick Sobodash

A frequent mistake, especially this year with the earlier "snow calamity," happens in the translation of *zai* when it is used in conjunction with a natural phenomenon. Generally speaking, English does not require an extra word to inform readers something is a disaster. It is understood that a meter of snow, freezing rain, hail and floods are all disasters.

In this sign, *zai* is again translated as "calamity." That is fine if one reads only that character, but here it is used with fire. A fire – in the sense this sign is talking about – is understood to be a disaster, so that character can just go away.

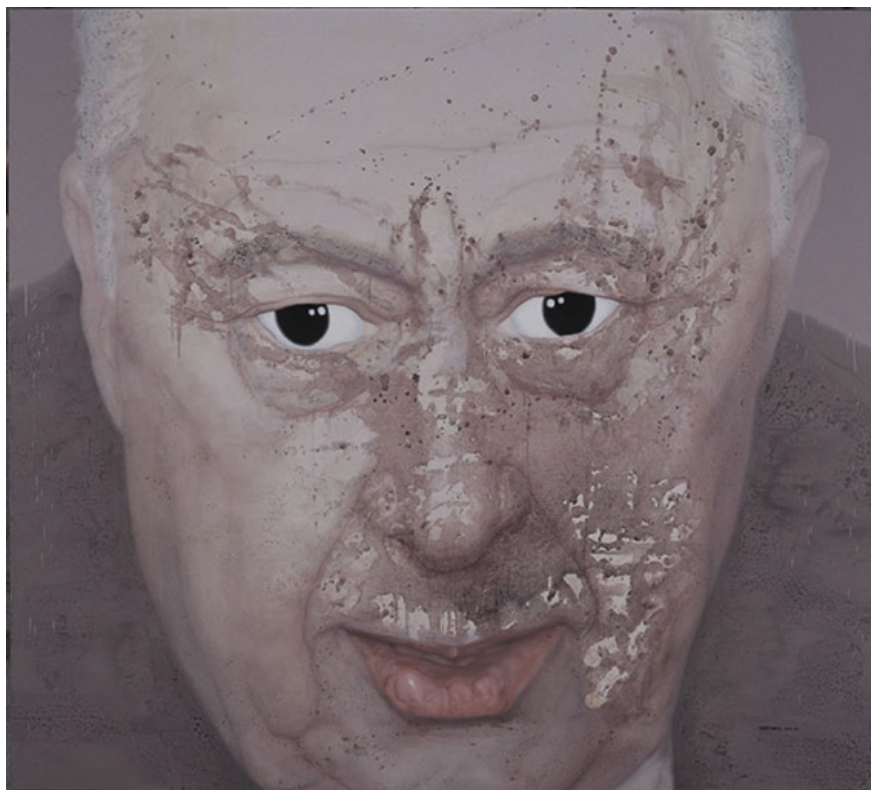
The full text reads, "Everybody is responsible to prevent fire calamity."

"Is responsible" sounds a little bit odd in this context. The verb probably should not



go where the translator has placed it. With responsibility, it is more common to talk about whose responsibility it is rather than who is responsible. With this sign, preventing fire is "everyone's responsibility."

Otherwise, this is not a bad translation; the way it is worded is a little flipped around. It could sound better if the English followed the same order as the Chinese, which places the preventing part first and the responsibility part last. Stick a verb between the two parts and drop "calamity" for "Preventing fire is everyone's responsibility."



5 Friday, April 18

Exhibition Dark Mount – Wang Lifeng Solo Exhibition

Wang's characteristic lies in his application of materials. He does



not to simply serve the visual demands, but showcase his desire to seek cultural roots.

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9 am – 6 pm, until June 1
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 6755

Li Gang Solo Exhibition

Where: Red Gate Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until May 18

Admission: Free
Tel: 6525 1005

Excessive Transition – Geng Jianyi Solo Exhibition

The exhibition consists of an entirely

new series of photographs that Geng Jianyi created in 2008. In these black-and-white pictures, the artist portrays himself in various settings that have been slightly manipulated to create a feeling of uncertainty and distorted reality.

Where: shanghART gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until May 20

Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 3202

Infinity Column – Ouyang Chun



Solo Exhibition

Where: Star Gallery, 2 Qiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until April 23

Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 0591

6 Saturday, April 19

Exhibition A+A – Third Exhibition of A+A in 2008

The exhibition features Fan Min-



gzheng, Huang Yang, Kang Haitao, Li Hongjun, Liu Wentao, Liu Zhiyi, Shao Kun, Tan Jun, Wang Guangle, Wei Jia, Wei Yan, Wu Di, Wu Jian'an, Xiong

Yu and Zhou Wenzhong

Where: PIFO New Art Studios, B-07 Beijing International Art Camp, Suojia-cun, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until May 18

Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 1792

Mirror of History



Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, between Red Gate and White Space Gallery

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 7 pm, until May 30

Admission: Free
Tel: 6530 7048

Comrade – Han Jianyu Oil Painting Solo Exhibition

Where: 3+3 Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until June 10

Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 9942

Movie

Tous à l'Ouest

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi

Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



Concert

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008 Musical Festival

Who: Conducted by Bramwell Tovey
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30 pm, April 19
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Sunday, April 20

Exhibition

Chen Zhiguang Solo Exhibition



Chen Zhiguang's art would give viewers the feeling of mystery and strangeness.

Where: Gallery TN, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10 am – 6 pm, until May 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9550

Early Spring – New Works by Xia Xiaowan

Where: F/2, Beijing Today Art Museum, Building 1, 32 Baiziwang Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until May 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9392

Revolution or Rhizome – Carlos Garaicoa Solo Exhibition

Where: Galleria Continua, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until June 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6436 1005

Movie

Le Fils de L'épicier



Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in May

Concert

Chris Botti Solo Concert

Who: Chris Botti
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, May 18

Admission: 80-980 yuan

Tel: 8528 5344, 6559 8306

May Flower Music Series III

Who: The China Film Symphony Orchestra of China Broadcasting Performing Arts Group

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, May 2

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Pinchas Zukerman

Asia Tour Beijing Concert

Who: Pinchas Zukerman
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, May 22

Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Ninegates Jazz

Festival 2008

Who: Geraldine Laurent
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, May 28

Admission: 20-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Hao Weiya

Special Concert

Who: Hao Weiya
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, May 4

Admission: 50-280 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Jay Chou 2008 World Tour

Beijing Concert

Who: Jay Chou
Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, May 1

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Sound of Angel

Who: Declan Galbraith

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7 pm, May 24

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

Opera

Madame Butterfly

Who: Central Conservatory of Music
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, May 8-10

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Paguita

Who: Paris Opera Ballet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, May 16-18

Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)